The Cocommunity

Monthly Newsletter of the International Coconut Community

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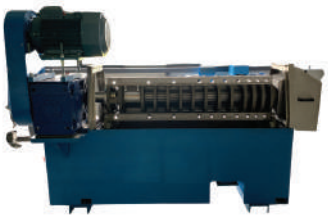

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THE DIRECTOR GENERAL SPEAKS

"Biochemical Resilience and Cultural Significance of Coconut Products in the Festive Season"

The transition into the winter holiday season represents a period of significant metabolic and environmental transition for the human body. The holiday season brings three main challenges that make it hard for our bodies to stay healthy and balanced. First, the dietary landscape shifts toward high-calorie, lipid-heavy, and sugar-dense foods, which places an immense burden on metabolic regulation and insulin sensitivity. Second, the social nature of the holidays, combined with colder weather in temperate zones, forces individuals into confined indoor environments where exposure to seasonal respiratory pathogens increases. Finally, the external environment, characterized by plunging temperatures and low humidity, creates a state of dermatological strain, stripping the skin's natural barrier of moisture and lipids. To combat these pressures, the coconut palm (*Cocos nucifera*) offers an array of functional derivatives. Products such as virgin coconut oil (VCO), coconut water, and coconut flour provide a unique biochemical toolkit that supports immunological defence and helps maintain physiological resilience during this demanding time of year.

At the heart of the coconut's nutritional value is the structural complexity of its kernel. This kernel serves as a dense reservoir for proteins, functional dietary components, and a unique profile of lipids. A critical but often overlooked component of this architecture is the **testa**, the thin brown layer situated between the white meat and the hard shell. It is the primary site for the fruit's most potent nutraceuticals. The testa is concentrated with tocopherols, tocotrienols, and a variety of phenolic compounds that grant the coconut its superior antioxidant capacity. By retaining the testa in certain processing methods, the resulting products provide a much broader spectrum of protection against the oxidative stress typically induced by holiday overindulgence and environmental toxins.

For those navigating the metabolic demands of the holiday season, the choice of oil is paramount. The bioactive integrity of VCO, rich in lauric, caprylic, and capric acids, is prized for its rapid absorption, metabolic efficiency, and anti-inflammatory traits. These medium-chain fatty acids (MCFAs) support cellular energy without the heavy inflammatory load associated with highly processed lipids.

While these biochemical benefits are vital in colder climates, the coconut remains equally central to resilience and tradition in tropical countries. In regions like Southeast Asia, the Caribbean, and India, the coconut is not merely a supplement but a cornerstone of festive identity. During Christmas in the Philippines, the *Buko Pandan* salad—made from young coconut strips, is a staple of the *Noche Buena* feast, while in Manado, Indonesia, the holiday season is synonymous with *Klapertart*, a Dutch-influenced coconut custard. In these climates, coconut water serves as a vital natural electrolyte to combat heat-related fatigue during long

communal celebrations. Furthermore, the fatty acid profile of coconut milk provides the necessary satiety and energy for traditional slow-cooked holiday dishes, such as Indonesian *Rendang*. In these contexts, the coconut transcends its biochemical utility, acting as a symbol of prosperity and a "natural coolant" that balances the internal body heat generated by spicy festive foods and tropical humidity.

Beyond the lipid content, the coconut matrix is rich in specific phenolic acids that serve as a defence mechanism for both the plant and the human consumer. These compounds work synergistically to neutralize free radicals, protecting the body's tissues from dermatological strain and metabolic exhaustion. Furthermore, the consumption of these products carries significant socio-economic weight. In countries like Indonesia, the Philippines, and the Pacific Islands, the holiday surge in demand for coconut-based treats provides a critical income spike for millions of smallholder farmers. As global demand for functional "holiday" foods grows, the regional economic stability of these nations is bolstered. By integrating coconut products into the festive diet, consumers support their own biological resilience while contributing to a global supply chain that sustains the livelihoods of farming communities. This intersection of biochemistry, culture, and economics highlights the coconut as a truly holistic resource for the festive period worldwide.

DR. JELFINA C. ALOUW
Director General

PREVAILING MARKET PRICES OF SELECTED COCONUT PRODUCTS AND OILS

In November 2025, coconut oil prices exhibited a general downward trend across major producing countries, including the Philippines, Indonesia, India, and Sri Lanka. A similar pattern was observed in the desiccated coconut market, where prices declined across the Philippines, India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka, reflecting improved supply-side conditions.

COPRA: In November 2025, copra prices in Indonesia decline to US$ 1,208 per metric ton, down from US$ 1,308 per metric ton in October, but representing a notable year-on-year increase of US$ 228 per metric ton. Nevertheless, The Philippines recorded a upward trend, with prices increasing from US$ 1,353 per metric ton in October to US$ 1,357 per metric ton in November 2025. This level reflects a substantial year-on-year gain of US$ 429 per metric ton, compared with US$ 928 per metric ton during the same month last year. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka posted a monthly price decrease as well, with copra prices dropping from US$ 1,605 per metric ton in October 2025 to US$ 1,508 per metric ton in November 2025.

COCONUT OIL: In November 2025, coconut oil prices showed a varied broadly movement across India, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka. In Europe (C.I.F. Rotterdam), the average price declined to US$ 2,436 per metric ton, though it still represented a strong 33% year-on-year increase. In the Philippines, the local market price reached US$ 2,644 per metric ton, reflecting a substantial year-on-year rise of US$ 913. Indonesia recorded a moderate month-on-month decrease, with FOB prices dropping from US$ 2,543 per metric ton in October to US$ 2,355 per metric ton in November 2025, translating to a year-on-year gain of US$ 617. Similarly, Sri Lanka experienced a modest 4.68% month-on-month price decrease during the same period.

COPRA MEAL: in the Philippines, the average domestic price of copra meal increased to US$ 254 per metric ton in November 2025, and reflected a year-on-year increase of US$ 71 per metric ton. Nevertheless, Indonesia recorded a decrease in its average domestic copra meal price, which fell to US$ 301 per metric ton in November 2025. Despite the monthly decline, this price remained US$ 38 per metric ton higher than the level recorded during the same period last year.

DESICCATED COCONUT: In November 2025, the average FOB price of desiccated coconut (DC) from the Philippines to the United States remained unchanged at US$ 3,799 per metric ton, indicating price stability compared with the previous month. The domestic price in the Philippines also remained steady, at US$ 2,039 per metric ton. In Indonesia, FOB prices for desiccated coconut declined to US$ 3,035 per metric ton; nevertheless, this level was still higher than the US$ 3,000 per metric ton recorded during the same period last year. Similarly, Sri Lanka registered a decline in its export price of desiccated coconut, which fell to US$ 3,352 per metric ton in November 2025.

COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL: In November 2025, the average price of coconut shell charcoal in India increased to US$ 968 per metric ton, representing a substantial year-on-year rise of US$ 432 per metric ton. In contrast, Indonesia recorded a price decline, with the average falling to US$ 912 per metric ton during the same period. Similarly, Sri Lanka experienced a moderate decrease, with coconut shell charcoal prices easing to US$ 923 per metric ton in November 2025.

COIR FIBRE: In November 2025, Sri Lanka's domestic coir fiber trade recorded an average price of US$ 122 per metric ton for mixed fiber, while bristle fiber prices ranged between US$ 474 and US$ 963 per metric ton. Meanwhile, in Indonesia, the price of mixed raw fiber stood at US$ 220 per metric ton, reflecting a notable increase from the US$ 140 per metric ton recorded during the same period last year.

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

Products/Country	2025 Nov	2025 Oct	2024 Nov	2025 (Annual Ave.)
Dehusked Coconut				
Philippines (Domestic)	300	294	175	309
Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use)	270	284	268	319
Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use)	672	772	349	766
India (Domestic Kerala)	884	865	687	837
Copra				
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	1,357	1,353	928	1,412
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	1,208	1,308	980	1,286
Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo)	1,508	1,605	1,507	1,692
India (Dom. Kochi)	2,451	2,493	1,642	2,310
Coconut Oil				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	2,436	2,558	1,836	2,506
Philippines (Domestic)	2,644	2,606	1,731	2,648
Indonesia (Domestic)	2,355	2,543	1,738	2,485
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	2,769	2,905	2,589	2,923
India (Domestic, Kerala)	4,113	4,285	2,621	3,745
Desiccated Coconut				
Philippines FOB (US), Seller	3,799	3,799	2,190	3,450
Philippines (Domestic)	2,039	2,039	2,039	2,040
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	3,352	3,585	3,292	3,788
Indonesia (FOB)	3,035	3,044	3,000	3,118
India (Domestic)	3,176	3,286	2,784	3,201
Copra Meal Exp. Pel.				
Philippines (Domestic)	254	192	183	194
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	342	319	297	386
Indonesia (Domestic)	301	306	263	318
Coconut Shell Charcoal				
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	923	932	487	794
Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer	912	965	620	882
India (Domestic)	968	963	536	887
Coir Fibre				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre)	122	124	72	105
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	474	502	438	521
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	963	957	726	837
Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre)	220	220	140	182
Other Oil				
Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	2,141	2,273	2,015	2,101
Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	970	1,038	1,169	1,008
Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill)	1,126	1,132	1,145	1,142

Exchange Rate

Nov 30, '25 1 US$ = P59.14 or Rp16,686 or India Rs90.13 or SL Rs308.66

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

MARKET REVIEW OF ACTIVATED CARBON

Global trade data for January–September 2025 indicate a tightening activated carbon market, characterized by declining import volumes alongside sharply higher prices. Total global imports fell to 690,807 metric tons in 2025, compared with 713,870 metric tons in 2024 and 709,781 metric tons in 2023. This decline marks a clear reversal after two years of relative stability. Importantly, the contraction occurred despite sustained demand from major end-use sectors, including water treatment, air purification, food processing, and energy-related applications. This suggests that supply-side constraints and higher prices, rather than weaker consumption, were the primary factors limiting trade. By contrast, the marginal increase in volumes between 2023 and 2024 reflected a more balanced market with moderate prices and adequate supply. The 2025 decline, coupled with strong price increases in major exporting countries, points to the combined effects of elevated coconut shell charcoal costs, limited production capacity, and tighter export availability. Overall, the data are consistent with a price-led market environment, in which reduced volumes coexist with higher unit values, indicating that activated carbon prices have shifted to a structurally higher level compared with 2023–2024.

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

Period	Value (USD'000)	Volume (MT)
Jan-Sep 2023	75,859	34,970
Jan-Sep 2024	73,308	34,930
Jan-Sep 2025	101,368	38,552

Source: US Census Bureau

Within this global context, U.S. imports of coconut shell charcoal–based activated carbon recorded a notable rebound in January–September 2025 following relatively flat performance in 2023–2024. Import values declined slightly from USD 75.9 million in 2023 to USD 73.3 million in 2024, while volumes remained broadly stable at around 35,000 metric tons, implying some price softening. In contrast, 2025 saw a sharp recovery, with import value rising to USD 101.4 million, an increase of 38 percent year on year, and volumes expanding to 38,552 metric tons, up 10 percent. The much faster growth in value relative to volume indicates a significant rise in unit import prices. This reflects stronger demand from water treatment, air purification, and industrial applications, combined with tighter supply conditions and higher production and logistics costs in key supplying countries.

A similar price-driven pattern is evident in Sri Lanka's exports of coconut shell charcoal–based activated carbon during January–October 2025. Although export volumes declined slightly to 46,823 metric tons from a record 48,547 metric tons in the same period of 2024, export earnings surged to US$ 161.3 million. This represents a substantial increase compared with US$ 123.3 million in 2024 and US$ 102.9 million in 2023. The divergence between volume and value highlights a sharp rise in average export prices in 2025, in line with global market trends. In contrast, export growth in 2023 and 2024 was more balanced, with increases in value largely tracking shipment volumes and only moderate price gains. The 2025 outcome therefore signals a structural shift in market dynamics, with elevated coconut shell charcoal costs, tighter feedstock availability, and strong international demand—particularly from environmental and water treatment applications—driving activated carbon prices to historically high levels and significantly boosting Sri Lanka's export revenues despite stable-to-lower volumes.

Indonesia's export performance further underscores the emergence of a high-price, supply-constrained market in 2025. During January–October 2025, exports of coconut shell charcoal–based activated carbon declined to 13,339 metric tons, down from 15,781 metric tons in 2023 and slightly below the 2024 level. This continued contraction reflects persistent tightness in raw material availability and limited capacity expansion. Despite lower volumes, export earnings rose sharply to US$ 22.8 million in 2025, recovering from US$ 19.0 million in 2024

and approaching the 2023 level, when shipments were significantly higher. This contrast points to a substantial increase in unit export prices in 2025, driven by surging coconut shell charcoal costs and strong global demand. Unlike 2023, when export performance was largely volume-driven, or 2024, when both volumes and prices weakened, Indonesia's 2025 exports were clearly underpinned by price-led growth.

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

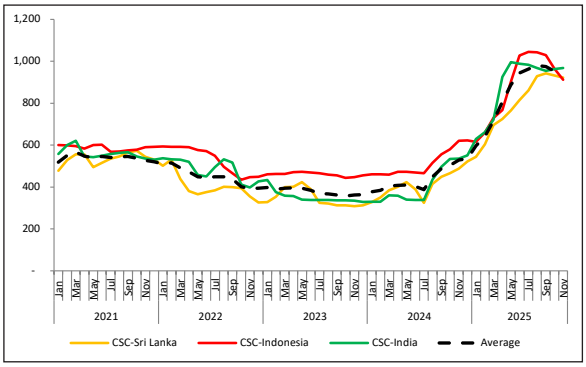
Period	Value (USD'000)	Volume (MT)
Jan-Oct 2023	15,781	24,110
Jan-Oct 2024	13,811	19,003
Jan-Oct 2025	13,339	22,803

Source: BPS Statistics Indonesia

Underlying these developments, the coconut shell charcoal market experienced a decisive shift in 2025 from the relatively moderate price environment of 2023–2024 to an exceptionally tight and high-price regime across Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and India. While prices during 2023 and the first half of 2024 were largely stable and range-bound, 2025 recorded a rapid and sustained escalation from the beginning of the year. Between January and June 2025, prices rose sharply in all three countries: in Sri Lanka, from around US$ 544 to over US$ 815 per metric ton; in Indonesia, from approximately US$ 616 to above US$ 1,000 per metric ton; and in India, from roughly US$ 629 to nearly US$ 990 per metric ton. Both the speed and magnitude of these increases were unprecedented compared with earlier years, when price movements were gradual and often seasonal. Although prices eased slightly in the final quarter of 2025, they remained at historically elevated levels, pointing to a structural shift in market fundamentals driven by strong demand from the activated carbon industry and constrained raw material availability.

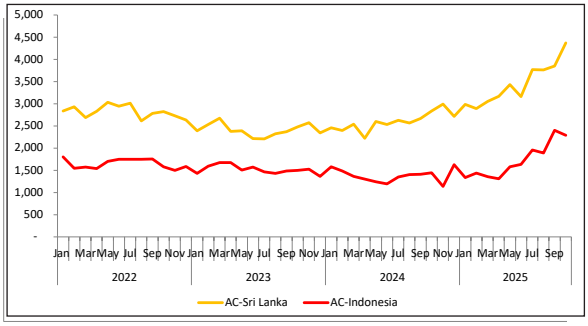
The surge in coconut shell charcoal prices was directly transmitted to the activated carbon market through a strong cost pass-through mechanism. During 2023 and most of 2024, activated carbon prices remained relatively stable, reflecting subdued charcoal prices. This changed markedly in 2025 as

Figure 1. Monthly Prices of Coconut Shell Charcoal (US$/MT) in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and India, January 2021-November 2025



Source: ICC

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



Source: ICC

charcoal prices surged to unprecedented levels across major producing countries. Rising charcoal costs significantly increased production expenses for activated carbon manufacturers, particularly in Indonesia and India, where prices exceeded US$ 900–1,000 per metric ton by mid-year. As a result, activated carbon prices rose steeply: in Sri Lanka, from around US$ 3,000 per metric ton in January 2025 to over US$ 4,300 per metric ton by October, and in Indonesia, from approximately US$ 1,300–1,400 to above US$ 2,200 per metric ton over the same period. Compared with the limited volatility observed in 2023–2024, the 2025 experience highlights a much tighter linkage between raw material and finished product markets. Overall, the 2025 trends confirm that elevated and volatile coconut shell charcoal prices have been the primary driver of the current high-price environment in the activated carbon market.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ICC-BRIN EXPERT MEETING FINALIZES DRAFT MANUAL TO TURN COCONUT WASTE INTO SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL (SAF)

An Expert Review Meeting was held, on 6 November 2025, in a hybrid format in the Ministry of Trade Building, Jakarta to review and gather crucial feedback on the draft "Inspector Manual for Non-Standard Coconut", a document aiming to establish a harmonized global standard for sorting non-edible coconuts to be used as feedstock for Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) production rather than going to waste. If adopted, this initiative is expected to utilise coconut waste, supporting both the coconut sector's sustainability and global decarbonisation efforts.

The manual was developed by Indonesia's National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) in collaboration with Indonesia-Japan Business Network (IJBNet), Green Power Development Corporation of Japan (GPDJ), and ICC. The meeting's objective was to discuss expert insights, address critical feedback, and achieve a collective agreement on the final Inspector manual before proposing it to the ICC Technical Working Group for endorsement and eventual submission to the ICC session. The event represents a significant step towards both industry sustainability and global decarbonisation goals.

Advancing Sustainability and Economic Opportunity

ICC Director General, Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, delivered the welcome address and objectives of the meeting. She stressed the meeting's objective of achieving a collective agreement on the manual and recognized the importance of considering local expertise in coconut classification, proposing a flexible global baseline standard with regional annexes.

The initiative focuses on diverting non-standard coconuts—estimated to represent up to 25% of annual production in major producing countries—from waste streams into a high-value commodity, SAF, which has the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 80% and provides strategic economic advantages by diversifying energy sources and creating jobs in rural communities. "SAF is not only a climate solution, but also an economic opportunity, one that can future-proof both our environment and our industries," she underlined.

In his presentation, Dr. Suyoto Rais, Chairman, IJBNet, highlighted that this feedstock has the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 70% compared to traditional jet fuel. He presented an initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the aviation industry by using non-standard coconuts as a biomass feedstock. He noted that Indonesia alone has approximately 25% of its coconuts classified as non-standard, which can be converted into SAF production. The proposal is supported by the similar carbon composition to palm oil and its potential to reduce emissions by up to 70%. Dr. Suyoto also emphasized the need to develop a robust certification and traceability system to detect and classify non-standard coconuts.

Prof. Dr. Ir. Anugerah Widiyanto, B. Sc., M. Eng., Acting Deputy Chairman for Development Policy, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), focused his presentation on finalizing the document for utilizing non-standard coconuts as a sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) feedstock. Led by the IJBNet, Green Power Development Japan, in collaboration with the BRIN, the initiative aims to establish a framework that diversifies coconut sources and ensures sector sustainability. He explained that the meeting's primary goal was to validate the draft manual, gather technical feedback, and align it with member countries' needs and international sustainability standards.

Indonesia's Support and Focus on Food Security

Ministry of Trade of Indonesia, represented by Ms. Riska Adelia Pakpahan, First Trade Analyst, Directorate General of International Trade Negotiation, the Ministry of Trade of Indonesia,

acknowledged the ICC Secretariat and the team for drafting the manual. She stated that Indonesia believes this is a forward-looking initiative as it promotes the global utilization of non-standard coconuts that would otherwise go to waste.

Crucially, she noted that the manual is vital to ensure that components used for SAF are genuinely non-standard and do not disrupt the supply of standard components for food and other uses. She also mentioned the importance of a harmonized and evidence-based reference due to the stagnant production and commoditizing demand of coconuts.

Dr. Teguh Pribadi Adinugroho, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), presented a manual for sorting non-standard coconuts, aimed at improving economic and environmental sustainability in the coconut industry. Developed through collaboration with Japanese and Indonesian partners, the manual identifies four key criteria for non-standard coconuts: too small, sprouted, cracked, and rotten. The project, conducted across three Indonesian regions and involving nine companies, ran from January to August, intending to create a global reference for coconut sorting. The manual emphasizes practicality, voluntary adoption, and supports the sustainable agriculture production (SAP) approach, potentially benefiting local economies by utilizing approximately 30% of coconut production that would otherwise be considered waste. The presentation emphasized creating a practical, voluntary standard that supports sustainability and traceability in the coconut supply chain.

During the review, experts from countries including India, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Jamaica provided constructive feedback, particularly concerning the need for flexibility. A key recommendation was to shift from a single, rigid global standard for size and weight (e.g., criteria for "too small" coconuts) to region-specific thresholds.

Furthermore, the revised "Inspector Manual for Non-Standard Coconut" will be presented to the ICC Technical Working Group on November 14 for further review and eventual formal adoption at the ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting. Should this manual be adopted at the ICC Session meeting in Bangkok, the ICC Secretariat is also planning a training program to facilitate its implementation across member countries next year.

The adoption of this manual is crucial to unlock the massive potential of the coconut sector in contributing to the world's transition to green energy. *(ICC News)*

FOUNDATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK ESTABLISHED: ICC, BRIN, AND IJBNET LAUNCH STRATEGIC COOPERATION FOR COCONUT RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

The International Coconut Community (ICC) has taken a strategic step together with Indonesia's National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) and the Indonesia-Japan Business Network (IJBNet) to formalize two key agreements. These agreements establish a framework to accelerate comprehensive research and innovation on coconut, including the development of sustainable energy from non-food coconut resources.

The first memorandum, the "Agreement between the International Coconut Community and BRIN's Research Center for Plantation Crops regarding Mass Propagation of Superior Coconut Seeds using In Vitro Techniques, and Metabolomic Studies, and Genetic Stability Assessment", signed at the National Research and Innovation Agency Headquarter, Cibinong, 26 June 2025, outlines the specific technical collaboration. This bilateral agreement between the two bodies concentrates on enhancing the fundamental quality and quantity of coconut resources through advanced genetic research and superior seed production to ensure the long-term sustainability and supply of the feedstock.

The second agreement, the "Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between National Research and Innovation Agency of the Republic of Indonesia and International Coconut Community and Indonesia-Japan Business Network

Concerning Research and Innovation on Coconut for Sustainable Energy", signed at the Ministry of Trade Office, Jakarta, on 6 November 2025, serves as the comprehensive strategic umbrella for the partnership. Its core focus is the joint research, development, and eventual commercialization of technologies that convert coconut resources—primarily non-standard ones—into sustainable energy. These foundational documents formalize the collaborative efforts, which are expected to elevate the coconut sector into a major player in global decarbonization efforts.

Collectively, these foundational agreements will govern and formalize all future joint activities. This framework was immediately put into action with the the recent Expert Review Meeting in Jakarta, 6 November 2025, which was dedicated to reviewing the draft' Inspector Manual for Non-Standard Coconut. This manual is a pivotal instrument, establishing the necessary technical guidelines to strategically distinguish and safeguard food-grade coconut resources by preventing their diversion for use as Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) feedstock.

The collaboration is formalized between the Deputy for Development Policy at BRIN, the ICC Secretariat, and IJBNet. The primary objective of the partnership is to advance mass propagation techniques for superior coconut seeds using in vitro methods, conduct crucial metabolomic and genetic stability studies, and ultimately facilitate the commercialization of technology for clean energy production.

This collaboration is of strategic importance for Indonesia's long-term development goals, as the MoU serves as the foundation for transforming non-standard coconuts, which would otherwise be treated as waste, into a high-value commodity. By leveraging research and international partnerships, Indonesia can maintain its leadership in coconut production while pioneering green energy technology.

The partnership is also critical for addressing persistent challenges such as low palm productivity, thereby positioning ICC member countries to meet future global demand for both food and non-food based products. The inclusion of IJBNet's network is vital for bridging the gap between academic research and industrial commercialization, ensuring that scientific breakthroughs have a direct and efficient pathway to industry and the international supply chain. *(ICC News)*

FACING THE PARADOX: 61ST ICC SESSION MEETING OPENS IN BANGKOK WITH URGENT CALL TO STABILIZE GLOBAL COCONUT SUPPLY

The ICC Session and Meeting is the highest decision-making body of the Community and is held annually to discuss, deliberate and take policy decisions on the activities to be undertaken by the Community for the sustained development of the global coconut sector. The countries are represented at the Session by the Honorable Ministers of Agriculture/ Trade/Commerce/Plenipotentiary Delegates authorized by the National Governments and Senior Officials from the concerned Ministries.

The three-day 61st ICC Session Meeting was conducted at the Berkeley Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand, from 18 to 21 November 2025. The Government of Thailand held the Chair of the International Coconut Community (ICC) for the Current Year 2024-2025, and the Government of Thailand through Department of Agriculture was the host for the 61st ICC Session Meeting.

The first-day agenda of the Session was the Inauguration/Opening Ceremony, wherein Mr. Rapibhat Chandarasrivongs, Director General, Department of Agriculture, Government of Thailand, and Chairman of 61st ICC Session Meeting, delivered the welcome remarks. He warmly welcomed dignitaries and delegates, emphasizing the event's importance as a platform to exchange experience and advance sustainable practices in the global coconut industry. Highlighting coconut's role as both an economic crop and a symbol of livelihood and culture for millions, the speaker reaffirmed Thailand's commitment to sustainable

sector development, climate adaptation, and technology transfer. Calling for deeper collaboration and knowledge-sharing among member countries, the address concluded with gratitude to all contributors, expressing hopes for a productive, memorable meeting and a resilient future for the coconut sector.

Furthermore, Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Director General, ICC delivered the introductory remarks. In her address she extended condolences following the passing of a National Liaison Officer from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and acknowledged the solemn mourning period observed by the Royal Thai Government.

She emphasized that the ICC Session's critical role as the paramount forum for shaping the policy trajectory of the coconut industry. Coconut is hailed as a vital, multi-functional resource, providing solutions from health and wellness to advanced materials and even Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF).

Crucially, the DG highlighted the "stark and exciting paradox": despite global demand for coconut products constantly surging, the sector is increasingly unable to meet it due to a lack of stable and cost-competitive raw material supply, compounded by tariff barriers. She urged delegates to move beyond conventional policy and define new strategies over the coming days, focusing on technological transformation, human capital development, fiscal incentives, and the removal of export barriers. The address concluded with a call to action based on the wisdom of Thomas Jefferson: "Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness."

Special remarks was delivered by H.E. Elina Akinaga, Secretary, Department of Resources & Development, Federated States of Micronesia. She appreciated to the participants and organizers, especially the ICC Secretariat and the Government of Thailand, emphasizing the coconut's vital role in Micronesia's heritage, livelihoods, and cultural identity, the speaker highlighted the importance of the ICC as a platform for partnership, technical guidance, and shared ambition. The speech reaffirmed Micronesia's commitment to innovation, sustainability, and equitable growth in the coconut sector, underscoring the value of global cooperation for prosperity. The address closed with gratitude and hope for fruitful collaboration.

H.E. Malava Fuimaono Tito Asafo, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Samoa highlighted coconut's role in Samoa's culture, economy, and resilience to climate change. Key priorities include replanting old trees with resilient varieties, improving market access, supporting research and technology, and strengthening farmer support. Emphasis is placed on eradicating coconut rhinoceros beetles, fostering international cooperation, and supporting farmers for sustainable, high-value coconut production in the face of ongoing climate and market challenges.

The official opening remarks of the session is done by H. E. Amin Mayusoh, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Government of Thailand. He highlighted the coconut industry's crucial role in the economy and food security. The speech emphasized Thailand's ongoing commitment to sustainable development through advancing agricultural innovation, increasing farmer income, promoting market-driven policies, and fostering climate-resilient coconut varieties. Technological advancements such as bio-pesticides and value-adding processes were noted. His Excellency also expressed gratitude to ICC member countries and stakeholders, voicing confidence in collective progress towards sustainability and prosperity for the global coconut sector.

Country Statement Agenda

After the Opening Ceremony, one of the most important agendas of the Session meeting was the country statement/paper presentation by member countries to give a brief update on the policies and programs for coconut development undertaken by national governments including the legislation to promote the development of the sector. The delegates presented the

statements by Plenipotentiary Delegates, which detailed their national coconut development agendas, covering a wide range of topics from policies, replanting efforts, production statistics, market trends, and trade performance to climate resilience, youth engagement, investment opportunities, and germplasm regulations.

The country papers contributed to a better understanding of the nations' developmental initiatives and the identification of replicable models for adapted implementation in other countries. It also facilitated the exchange of ideas and technology, paving the path for future collaborations between member countries, the ICC, and international partner organizations. Countries presented on the first day were: Coute d'Ivoire, Federal States of Macronesia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, and PNG.

During the Opening Ceremony, were also presented ICC Plaque awards to Pioneer Coconut Breeder/Scientist, Best Coconut Farmers, Best Coconut Processing Industry. The Plague awardees were:

- Best Scientist: Mr. Anupap Thirakul, Department of Agriculture, ThailandBest Scientist: Mr. Somchai Watanayothin, Department of Agriculture, Thailand
- Best Farmer/Entrepreneur: Mr. Boonprasert Saapma, Thailand
- Best Coconut Based Product Manufacturer: Theppadungporn Coconut Co., Ltd., Bangkok, Thailand

The Inauguration was closed by a joint statement by the ICC member countries on Advancing Standards and Innovation for a Sustainable Global Coconut Industry. *(ICC News)*

ICC SESSION MEETING DAY 2: UNIFIED CALL FOR GLOBAL COCONUT DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNICAL EXCHANGE TAKES CENTER STAGE

The Session Meeting continued with the Country Statements presentation by Plenipotentiary Delegates from The Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tonga, Thailand, and Vietnam, consecutively. The country papers helped in understanding the developmental work undertaken by countries and identifying the replicable models for customized implementation in other countries. They helped in the exchange of ideas and technology and paved the way for possible collaborations between member countries.

The second day of the 61st International Coconut Community (ICC) Session moved from identifying crises to proposing radical solutions. During the meeting, some participants strongly suggested or advocated for the ICC member countries to stop competing with each other and instead form a single, unified trading group. The goal of this group would be to gain more power in the global market, allowing them to better control prices and trade terms, especially given the supply deficits.

The Session began with Country Statement presentation from the Philippines, represented by Ms. Ma Odessa M. Pacaul, Department Manager, PCA Corporate Planning Service, Philippine Coconut Authority, Quezon City, Philippines. The Philippine coconut industry, vital to the economy and exports, faces aging palms, typhoon threats, and low productivity. Major revitalization programs—planting, hybridization, fertilization, and farmer support—are underway. Investment in processing and innovation, including biofuels, aims to ensure industry growth, sustainability, and improved livelihoods for millions. She mentioned that the Philippines plan to plant 100 million trees by 2028.

Mr. K.S. Wijayakeerthi, Additional Secretary (Coconut and Allied Crops Development), Ministry of Plantation and Community Infrastructure, represented Sri Lanka, urged ICC nations to stop competing against one another and instead unite to dictate global market prices. "We face a 32% supply deficit," he noted, while revealing Sri Lanka's roadmap to reach $1.5 billion in exports by 2030, driven by their premium "King Coconut" variety. Sri Lanka's coconut sector seeks growth despite drought, productivity, and resource challenges.

National programs target replanting, subsidy, and export expansion. With strong cultural and economic importance, Sri Lanka aims for increased output, global market unity, and sustainable practices, collaborating with ICC nations for innovation, pest control, and shared prosperity. Sri Lanka proposes the creation of a "Unified Global Coconut Block".

Mr. Elisaia Sylvester Ika, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forests, Nuku 'alofa, Tonga presented Tonga's coconut industry features significant cultivation but faces aging trees, weak enforcement of replanting, and cyclone threats. Government supports replanting, farmer incentives, and demonstration plots, while promoting sector events, research, and international collaboration to acquire new varieties, boost processing, and ensure industry sustainability amid resource and market challenges.

Dr. Wilaiwan Twhishsri, Director, Academic Division, Holticulture Research Institution, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand, presented that Thailand's coconut industry faces production challenges, market fluctuations, shortage of raw materials and climate change impacts on production. Government policies target innovation, export growth, sustainability, and farm certification. Efforts include research, hybrid seedlings, training, and technology adoption. Export volumes, mainly to the USA and China, grow, while ongoing collaboration and adaptation aim to ensure sector competitiveness and resilience. Thailand is developing new varieties like Makar Bruno. The discussion also covered certification programs, farm management techniques, and efforts to improve yield and productivity through technology and collaboration were emphasized.

In his presentation, Mr. Cao Ba Dang Khoa, General Secretary, Vietnam Coconut Association, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ho Chi Minh City, highlighted significant industry growth for the 2023–2025 period. The sector generated over $1.08 billion in export value in 2024, reaching more than 90 countries. Recent trends include a 20% increase in new plantings to rejuvenate tree age and a strategic shift toward organic fertilization for pest management. Processing enterprise especially food and beverage products contributing the largest share (43%) of export turnover.

Dr. Fabian Dayrit, Emeritus Professor, Ateneo de Manila University, Chairman, Scientific Advisory Committee for Health (SACH), ICC, discussed a comprehensive plan for coconut development from 2014 to 2036. Short-term goals include addressing misinformation about coconut fatty acids and increasing social media campaigns. Medium-term goals aim to establish a new paradigm of coconut oil and heart disease, conduct clinical trials on coconut products like coco sugar, and promote a tropical diet.

Dr. Prabhath Kumar, Chairman, ICC Technical Working Group (TWG), highlighted priorities for sustainable coconut development: strengthening planting material, climate resilience, biosecurity, and youth empowerment. He emphasized aligning with global agendas, creating project proposals to secure external funding, fostering international research collaboration, and strengthening technical advisory roles to develop impactful projects benefiting farmers and coconut stakeholders globally.

Observer Organizations

The observer organization participated in the Session, consecutively presented, were Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM-CSSTC), Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD), French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), Green Power Development Corporation of Japan (GPDJ), Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), Brazillian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA), and Sustainable Coconut Partnership (SCP). The representatives of the organizations presented statements on their activities, their

involvement, potential programs and projects for the development of the coconut sector to be implemented in the member countries with the collaboration of ICC. *(ICC News)*

DAY 3 OF THE 61ST SESSION MEETING: STRUCTURAL REFORMS & GLOBAL STRATEGY ENDORSED

The third day of the 61st Session Meeting of the International Coconut Community (ICC) in Bangkok, Thailand, on Thursday, November 20, 2025, focused on the ratification of critical institutional reforms, the review of strategic activities, and the setting of policy directions for 2026. Delegates approved significant measures aimed at enhancing the efficiency and strengthening the resilience of the global coconut industry.

Strengthened Governance for ICC COGENT & Biosecurity Protocols

The Session ratified a major governance shift within the International Coconut Genetic Resources Network (ICC COGENT). Mr. A. H. Nuwan Chinthaka, ICC Deputy Director General, presented the strategic update, announcing that COGENT's coordination is now fully placed under the ICC Secretariat through a newly endorsed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). The report highlighted 2024–2025 achievements, including the handover of the Southeast Asia Genebank and the implementation of climate resilience workshops. To address funding and biosecurity challenges, COGENT plans to implement a unified biosecurity protocol for germplasm exchange, harmonize tissue culture technologies among member countries, launch the COCODIV molecular characterization project, and commence a data modernization initiative using the Genesys software.

Country Statements: Focus on Resilience & Market Access

In continuance with the 2nd Day Session Meeting, one the 3rd Day Agendas was the Country Statement, wherein plenipotentiary delegates presented key updates from their respective nations, highlighting both successes and challenges in their domestic coconut sectors.

Mr. Tanu J. Toomata, Assistant CEO, Crops Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Samoa reported significant progress in farmer cooperative revitalization and value-added processing, specifically noting the expansion of virgin coconut oil (VCO) production for export. Their statement emphasized the urgent need for technical assistance from the ICC to address the escalating threat of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) variant, Guam Biotype, which is severely impacting young tree stock and threatening long-term productivity goals.

Mr. Cornelius Donga, Deputy Secretary Technical, Ministry of Commerce, Industries, Labour and Immigration, Honiara, Solomon Islands focused on the critical role of coconut production in their national economy and rural livelihoods. The report detailed government initiatives to support smallholder farmers through replanting programs and access to better drying technologies. However, the delegate stressed the challenge of logistics and infrastructure, requesting ICC support to help create more direct market linkages and investment in inter-island transportation to reduce post-harvest losses and improve global competitiveness.

Annual Report & Key Programs for 2026 Approved

The other main agenda was the ICC Annual Report 2024, presented by Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, General Director, ICC which included the Global Scenario of a Sustainable and Resilient Coconut Sector, highlights of 2024, and update of activities of 2025. For the first time in the Session's history, the Report was presented in the format of video. The Session also discussed the various programs and projects proposed to be undertaken by ICC during CY 2026.

In the report, one of the key highlight activities in 2024 was the 51st International COCOTECH

Conference in Surabaya, Indonesia, inaugurated by the Indonesian President, His Excellency Mr. Joko Widodo, was attended by the Minister of Trade, Mr. Zulkifli Hasan, with 600 more participants from 31 countries. Also presented other strategic activities, such as the celebration of World Coconut Day 2024 in Papua New Guinea which, underscored the theme "Coconut for a Circular Economy". The commitment to the future was reinforced through the Youth Empowerment Program (YEP), in collaboration with NAM-CSSTC, which trained the younger generation. International Conference on Coconut 2024, Thailand; Coconut Festival 2024, India in Coimbatore. This event featured a symposium, exhibition, and awards ceremony, underscoring collaboration within the industry.

The 60th ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting 2024 in Sri Lanka was the pinnacle of our work. Strategic agendas were adopted, including the approval of the leadership title change (Executive Director to Director General), the chairmanship handed over from Sri Lanka to our next host, Thailand, for the 2025-2026. Other ICC's activities throughout 2025 centred on enhancing productivity, building capacity, and strengthening global partnerships, such as the ICC side event entitled "Harnessing the Potential of Coconut for Food and Energy Security: Sustainable Solutions for a Resilient Future" on April 25, 2025, during the 81stUNESCAP Session of the Commission in Bangkok, followed by a Consultative Meeting and Field Visits on April 26–27 in Ratchaburi, Thailand. The 1st International Cocohealth Conference, in Coimbatore, India; the World Coconut Day 2025 celebration with ICAR-CPCRI in India; participated and supported the World Coconut Day in several countries, such as Sri Lanka, PNG, and Thailand.

Administrative Agenda & Session Conclusion

The Session touched upon several crucial administrative and financial issues, including the audit report for Calendar Year (CY) 2024, the proposed Secretariat budget for CY 2026, and the handling of outstanding membership contributions. Additionally, the session included nominations for the next ICC Director General (term commencing 2027) and the recruitment of a new Secretary for the Secretariat (term commencing October 2026). Amendments to the ICC staff rules and procedures were also approved for operational modernization. The Session concluded with the ceremonial handover of the ICC Chair from Thailand to India, followed by remarks from both the outgoing and incoming Chairs. Plenipotentiary delegates delivered a vote of thanks, and Director General Dr. Alouw provided closing reflections on the accomplishments and future direction of the coconut sector through ICC. *(ICC News)*

ICC URGES GLOBAL ACTION TO SAFEGUARD THE 'TREE OF LIFE' AT THE 11TH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE FAO INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD & AGRICULTURE

The International Coconut Community (ICC), represented by the Director General, has delivered a powerful statement at the 11th Session of the Governing Body (GB 11) of the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), currently being held in Lima, Peru.

Under the overarching theme of Fostering Biodiversity and Food Security: Preserving Heritage, Cultivating a Shared Future, the ICC, representing its 21 member countries, highlighted the essential role of coconut-the Tree of Life in global food security and the urgent need for enhanced conservation efforts.

The ICC statement emphasized that the conservation of coconut is not merely an environmental issue but a matter of global socio-economic stability. With over 95% of the world's coconut area cultivated by smallholder farmers, the crop is central to poverty alleviation and rural development across the tropics. However, this vital sector faces severe and escalating threats:

- Pervasive Low Productivity: Many palms are senile, exceeding 60 years of age, leading to drastically reduced yields.
- Climate Extreme Impacts: Extreme weather events, such as devastating hurricanes, are destroying thousands of palms and severely impacting the livelihoods of vulnerable farmers.
- Devastating Pests and Diseases: Threats like Lethal Yellowing Disease, Coconut Rhino Beetle and the Red Palm Weevil demand urgent genetic and comprehensive solutions.
- The ICC stressed its commitment to global germplasm preservation, noting the success of the five international coconut genebanks that collectively conserve more than 1,000 accessions of key traits. Crucially, the statement linked these efforts directly to the Treaty's main agenda items. ICC underscored that the protection of Farmers' Rights, a central discussion point at GB 11, is highly paramount to ensure that the smallholders who conserve and sustainably use these genetic resources are recognized and supported.

The ICC also highlighted that two of its key international coconut genebanks have already placed their collections under the Treaty's framework via the Article 15 agreement, demonstrating a proactive commitment to facilitated access and benefit-sharing under the Multilateral System (MLS). The ICC acknowledged the invaluable technical collaboration provided by strategic partners, including the ACIAR, Crop Trust, CIRAD, and Alliance Bioversity International - CIAT. Furthermore, the ICC affirmed the unanimous decision from its recent 61st Session to strengthen the Coconut Genetic Resources Network (COGENT) to accelerate palm improvement and facilitate essential germplasm exchange across borders. In a key diplomatic engagement ahead of the Governing Body Session, the ICC Director General met on 23 November 2025 with H.E. Mr. Ricky Suhendar, Ambassador of Indonesia to Peru and Bolivia, alongside Indonesian diplomats. The Embassy of Indonesia to Peru and Bolivia provided crucial logistical and preparatory support to the Director General, ensuring effective participation at the high-level international forum. The meeting itself focused on exploring potential trade opportunities to introduce and expand the market for coconut-based products within Peru and Bolivia.

This strategic engagement underscores the ICC's commitment not only to conservation but also to the economic utilization and expansion of the coconut value chain for its member countries. In its final plea to the Governing Body, the ICC called for: "Continued and enhanced technical and financial support is essential to safeguard these vital collections in partner countries, allowing us to proactively address the various threats of extreme climate events, senile palms, pests and disease, and ensure the 'Tree of Life' continues to support global food and nutritional security for generations to come." The 11th Session of the Governing Body is a key meeting focused on complex issues, including enhancing the functioning of the Multilateral System (MLS) of access and benefit-sharing and discussing the role of Digital Sequence Information (DSI) on plant genetic resources. The ICC's statement ensures that the conservation needs and socioeconomic importance of coconut, a perennial crop vital to millions of vulnerable people, remain a priority within these critical global negotiations. *(ICC News)*

ICC ENDORSES NON-STANDARD COCONUT SORTING MANUAL AT THE 61ST ICC SESSION IN BANGKOK, THAILAND

The International Coconut Community (ICC) officially endorsed the Non-Standard (NS) Coconut Sorting Manual during the 61st ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting held on 20 November 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand. This milestone marks a major advancement in promoting sustainability, traceability, and quality assurance within the global coconut sector.

The Manual was developed through close collaboration among the ICC, the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) of Indonesia, Green Power Development (GPD)

of Japan, and the Indonesia Japan Business Network (IJBNet). Prior to its submission to the Session, the draft underwent extensive review and technical discussions among ICC experts and members of the ICC Technical Working Group (TWG) to ensure its scientific robustness, practicality, and alignment with global sustainability requirements.

The NS Coconut Sorting Manual provides a standardized and science-based approach for identifying and sorting non-standard coconuts—those that are too small, sprouted, cracked, or rotten. These coconuts qualify as eligible feedstock under the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) CORSIA Sustainable Certification Scheme (SCS) for Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF).

In her address to the Session, ICC Director General Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw emphasized the importance of the manual in guiding member countries toward harmonized sorting practices that uphold food priority while supporting emerging renewable energy pathways. She noted: "This manual strengthens supply chain integrity, ensures responsible sourcing, and positions the coconut sector as a credible contributor to global climate solutions."

Delegates from ICC's 21 member countries reviewed and unanimously endorsed the Manual following detailed presentations and discussions. Their support reflects a strong collective commitment to elevating industry standards, ensuring transparent sourcing practices, and unlocking new value-adding opportunities for coconut by-products.

The Manual includes clear sorting criteria, ergonomic and safety guidelines, quality assurance mechanisms, and traceability requirements applicable across all points of origin—from farmers and collectors to suppliers and processors. It ensures that only genuine, unintended non-standard coconuts are channelled for SAF production, thereby safeguarding food supply while supporting sustainability goals.

The endorsed Manual is now available and can be accessed through the following link: https://coconutcommunity.org/page - publication/222/12.

The manual serves as a key reference for member countries keen on using Non-Standard Coconuts to secure a certified, non-food-competing SAF feedstock supply chain. The endorsement of the NS Coconut Sorting Manual stands as one of the key outcomes of the 61st ICC Session, reaffirming ICC's leadership in driving sustainability, innovation, and cooperation across the global coconut community. *(ICC News)*

UP TO 10,000 JOBS COULD BE CREATED BY A COCONUT DOWNSTREAM PROJECT IN INDONESIA

A China-backed coconut downstreaming project is expected to significantly boost Indonesia's economy, according to Rosan Perkasa Roeslani, Minister of Investment and Downstreaming and Head of the Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM).

According to Rosan, the project is anticipated to produce a variety of products derived from coconuts and generate between 5,000 and 10,000 jobs.

"In the first year, it will absorb 5,000 workers, and this will increase to 10,000 in the following year. The range of derivative products is also very diverse," Rosan said at the Kompas100 CEO Forum at the Indonesia Convention Exhibition (ICE) BSD in South Tangerang on Wednesday, November 26, 2025.

He emphasized that the initiative is designed to keep value creation within Indonesia. "This is how we ensure that added value stays in our country, and the jobs are also created here," he said.

The project carries an investment value of 100 million US dollars, or around Rp1.65 trillion.

"Compared to mineral investments, this is relatively small, especially in the plantation sector. But despite the 100 million dollars invested, the job creation can reach up to 10,000 people. That is very significant," Rosan said.

Rosan, who is also the CEO of Danantara, an agribusiness and investment organization that specializes in downstreaming commodities, emphasized that downstreaming a variety of commodities, including coconut, is essential for increasing added value and enhancing price stability for farmers in producing regions.

According to him, the great value potential of coconut when processed through an integrated downstreaming chain makes it particularly intriguing. In the past, farm-gate prices were lowered by the expense of shipping raw coconuts to China.

"This is why we encouraged them to invest here, so farmers can enjoy higher selling prices without the burden of shipping costs," he said.

Rosan added that the ongoing project will absorb around 500 million coconuts per year. *(Tempo)*

BENGKULU COASTAL AREAS: GEMPALA COCONUT PLANTING INITIATIVE GREENS

The Bengkulu City Administration's Coconut Tree Planting Movement (Gerakan Menanam Pohon Kelapa – Gempala) is currently producing noticeable outcomes. Once planted, rows of young coconut trees are continuously becoming lush and green in different places.

A number of larger trees that were planted in the first stage have started to bloom, indicating a rapid acceleration of their growth.

Bengkulu Mayor Dedy Wahyudi has urged stakeholders and the community to protect the trees on numerous occasions. He underlined that individuals' active participation in caring for the plants and ensuring their ideal development is just as important to the program's success as government initiatives.

According to Wahyudi, the greening initiative goes beyond environmental beautification and promises long-term benefits.

“We hope these coconut trees will eventually provide significant added value for Bengkulu residents, both ecologically and economically,” he said.

The growing greenery along Bengkulu’s coastal areas, including the well-known Panjang Beach, is expected to become a new attraction for tourists. Cooler and more scenic public spaces will support tourism development and ultimately boost regional economic growth.

With the promising growth of the coconut trees, the Gempala Program is now regarded as a concrete step by the Bengkulu City Administration toward creating a greener, more comfortable, and sustainable environment for all residents. *(RRI)*

IN THE UK, PEOPLE ARE INTERESTED IN TRACEABLE MATURE COCONUTS

India remains a significant producer of coconuts, predominantly from the southern states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh, which supply close to 90% of the country's output says Shantanu Aher of Narmada Fresh Fruit Exports. "Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have performed well this year, while farmers in Kerala are diversifying into other crops. However, heatwaves and uneven rainfall have affected yields and nut size across regions."

Export-grade coconuts are mainly sourced from Pollachi in Tamil Nadu, known for consistent year-round production. "Traditionally, arrivals are slightly higher from June to October, right after the monsoon, and then stay stable for the rest of the year. This season, harvesting patterns have shifted a little due to unpredictable weather, but overall availability of mature coconuts remains

consistent, supported by Pollachi's strong auction and packing infrastructure. Prices are currently around USD 0.8 per kg, subject to weather and local arrivals"

Aher explains that Narmada Fresh Fruit Exports has just begun shipping semi-husked coconuts this year, targeting markets that place a strong emphasis on freshness, consistency and reliability. "The UK is our primary destination. Buyers here are looking for coconuts that stay fresh for longer and can be further processed into desiccated coconut, coconut oil and other retail offerings. This market has a high preference for traceability, uniform grading and reliable quality, needs that we are well prepared to fulfill."

"There are certain challenges to exporters in ensuring uniform quality: "Heat stress and pests affect nut size and kernel quality. Small-holder farms can cause variation in size and grade. Maintaining post-harvest hygiene and phytosanitary compliance for exports is crucial, especially for the UK and EU markets. Nevertheless, demand for Indian coconuts remains strong, particularly in the Gulf, Europe, and niche North American communities.'"

Looking ahead, Aher outlines his plans to diversify into value-added coconut products noting strong international demand. "We are investing in the necessary infrastructure and certifications to responsibly build a processed coconut product portfolio. Our future offerings may include desiccated coconut, virgin coconut oil, processed coconut water, coconut meat, coir and coir-based products." *(Fresh Plaza)*

INTEREST IN THE EUROPEAN MARKET IS SPARKED BY COCONUT WATER

In the tropical region of Panama, Rio Piedra Farm is producing coconuts and green coconuts for the local and European markets. The farm currently grows more than 80 hectares of coconuts, and in the upcoming years, it intends to increase that amount to 300 hectares.

This year, the plantation began its productive phase, which gives the finished product distinctive qualities. "The water from young coconut trees tends to be sweeter and to have an interesting electrolyte composition for consumption," project representatives Stefany and Antonio said. As the plantations develop, the company's monthly ability to ship one container is anticipated to progressively rise.

"The farm primarily cultivates two varieties: The traditional coconut, used for food, cosmetics, and oil extraction, and the Brazilian dwarf palm, mainly harvested for coconut water. The coconut water, in particular, attracts significant interest in the European market, especially in the United Kingdom, Poland, and Spain, where demand for direct consumption and derived products remains steady," they stated.

"The coconuts are packaged either in boxes of ten or in nets, depending on customer requirements. Aside from the fresh market, coconut is also used in other sectors such as desserts and plant-based foods," they stated.

A major feature of the project is its agrotourism aspect, which allows visitors and industry professionals to see the production process firsthand. "The farm includes trails, recreational zones, plots with more than 30 fruit tree varieties, and areas for training sessions, fostering the sharing of knowledge and experiences related to agriculture," they added.

Agronomic management depends on eco-friendly practices, such as organic fertilizers and biological controls, while avoiding products with a high toxicological load. "Part of the land is also set aside for biodiversity conservation, with areas reserved for feeding wild birds. This approach seeks to integrate agricultural production with circular economy and ecological conservation principles," they added.

Environmental commitment is a key pillar. "Although we are not yet certified organic, our agricultural practices involve the use of biological controllers and organic fertilizers, avoiding toxic chemicals. Additionally, certain

areas are designated solely for bird feeding, promoting biodiversity and fostering an integrated ecosystem. This strategy aligns with a circular economy model where conservation and agricultural activities are balanced," they concluded. *(Fresh Plaza)*

IOI AND MEGA STAR WILL BUILD A COCONUT OIL COMPLEX IN MALAYSIA

To build a coconut mill complex in Segamat, Johor, Malaysian plantation powerhouse IOI Corp. has partnered with Singapore-based investment firm Mega Star Holding.

The joint venture would involve an estimated investment of MYR100M (US$24M) and would combine the core business strengths of both corporations, IOI said.

As part of the partnership, IOI said it would offtake and market coconut oil to its associate companies and customers in the European Union (EU) and the USA, while Mega Star would offtake and market concentrated coconut water to China and other Northeast Asian countries through its group network.

The integrated coconut mill complex would have a processing capacity of 100,000 coconuts/day on its completion in the fourth quarter of 2027 and would produce downstream products such as coconut oil and concentrated coconut water, IOI said.

As existing trees matured and IOI's coconut plantations expanded to approximately 5,000ha within the next two years, the company said the complex would progressively scale up production to 300,000 coconuts/day.

"By combining IOI's access to the international edible oil market and Mega Star's market access to the food and beverage sector in China, we aim to deliver … coconut products to meet growing market demand," said Lee Yeow Chor, IOI Group managing director and chief executive.

Located close to IOI's plantation landbank in Johor and next to the Inland Port of Segamat, IOI said the facility would enable it to supply coconuts from approximately 3,700ha of coconut plantations while the port location would allow shipment of finished products.

Using robotic and IR 4.0 processing equipment, the complex would incorporate a self-generating energy system by using coconut husks by-products as biofuel in the production process and IOI said there were also plans to convert another by-product, coconut shells, into activated carbon.

Mega Star is affiliated to Ting Hsin International Group, a China-based conglomerate which has an extensive food and beverage business across China and Taiwan. *(Oil & Fats International)*

PEPSICO'S COCONUT FARM'S IMPACT ON REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

José Corrêa do Lago, the president of COP30, the first international climate conference hosted in the Amazon, has referred to it as the "COP of implementation."

In order to demonstrate how climate change may be prioritized in agriculture, PepsiCo has established a coconut "demonstration farm" in Brazil.

This is in line with the COP30 agenda, which includes biodiversity and food system sustainability.

PepsiCo oversees the growth of nearly 50 crops in more than 60 countries to produce its most popular food and drink brands.

One of these crops is the green coconut, which is the main ingredient in PepsiCo's Kero Coco coconut water.

Petrolina, Brazil is home to PepsiCo's one-of-a-kind coconut demonstration farm which helps educate farmers on regenerative agriculture techniques.

PepsiCo has started an intercropping program at the farm, growing cacao plants in between the coconut trees.

The cacao plants thrive in the shade of the coconut trees while the coconuts benefit from the rich nutrient-dense soil from the cacao plants.

This program has been adopted by local farms, which helps introduce crop diversity and is expected to increase farmers income by approximately 30% to 70%.

Alexsandro Castro Souza, Agricultural Manager for PepsiCo Brazil, says: "The most rewarding aspect has been witnessing the improvement of quality of life and financial sustainability of family farmers.

"Seeing them embrace regenerative techniques that enhance productivity and long-term sustainability is particularly fulfilling."

Crop irrigation that is sustainable

By 2030, PepsiCo wants to increase the use of restorative, protective, and regenerative agricultural practices on 10 million acres of land. PepsiCo takes care of the coconut trees at its Petrolina farm using regenerative methods.

It has established a sophisticated irrigation management system that uses real-time weather data, such as temperature, humidity, and sunlight, to determine each coconut tree's precise water requirements.

The system activates irrigation using tailored hoses which deliver the optimal amount of water to each tree.

During COP30, Jim Andrew, Chief Sustainability Officer at PepsiCo, says on LinkedIn: "Facing increasing climate risk and impacts, the global food system is fragile and in need of transformation.

"This matters for PepsiCo – as a company rooted in agriculture – and importantly, for the world's ability to sustainably grow the food it needs today and in the future.

"This requires accelerated action and impact, at scale."

How sustainable are green coconuts?

Kero Coco coconut water is made only with green coconuts which are grown in northeastern Brazil.

Green coconuts are chosen specifically as they contain more water and are naturally sweeter than mature brown coconuts.

After harvesting the coconut water, PepsiCo uses the outer husks for natural fertilizer.

They are used on crops to naturally prevent weed growth, which helps reduce chemical use, lower greenhouse gas emissions and improve soil moisture.

"Unlike annual crops such as potatoes or corn, coconut palms are produced for many years, requiring long-term planning and practices that sustain ecosystem health for over a decade," Alexsandro says.

"Harvesting green coconuts for water demands specific methods to preserve the fruit's integrity and ensure high quality." *(Sustainability Magazine)*

DESICCATED COCONUTS: PRODUCTION COSTS NOT COVERED

Bad weather delays copra deliveries

Prices for Philippine desiccated coconuts have remained stable for almost two months now and continue to stand at USD 1.47-1.90/lb FOB for shipments to the US and Europe. "This consistency offered a rare bright spot amid broader market volatility", according to the market experts at T.M. Duché. On the domestic market, however, prices for desiccated coconuts have risen slightly again. In contrast, coconut oil

is continuing its downward trend, which can also be observed internationally. Copra prices have also fallen significantly in the main growing regions, highlighting the current weakness of the sector. T.M. Duché also reports that unfavorable weather conditions delayed copra deliveries to processors, reducing processing capacity and posing further challenges for the market.

China is buying more in Vietnam

Meanwhile, The Nation has little good news to report with regard to the Thai coconut market. Prices have fallen sharply and in some cases only cover half of the production costs, leading to considerable financial losses for growers. The problem is that Chinese buyers are increasingly sourcing goods from Vietnam, leaving Thai exporters stuck with their stocks; As a result, they are buying less from farmers. In some cases, the coconuts are simply left on the palms because harvesting them is not profitable and there are no buyers.

The shift in exports began with Vietnam's formal entry into the Chinese market in 2024. The agreement allows Vietnam to export fresh coconuts directly to China, previously Thailand's most important export destination. According to The Nation, cheaper freight costs due to geographical proximity and a state-coordinated export policy favor Vietnam's position. In Thailand, local producers are now calling for measures to stabilize prices and restore competitiveness, as the annual production value is in the billions. *(Mundus Agri)*

THE REASONS BEHIND THE DISAPPEARANCE OF KERALA'S COCONUTS

The evening rush has not decreased at Sriram Oil Mill in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. As usual, people come in to purchase coconut oil and its byproducts. However, Kerala, a state known for its coconuts, struggles to locate enough of them, revealing a tale it never would have imagined.

After 40 years of operating the mill, Hariharan claims he is now largely dependent on coconuts imported from Tamil Nadu.

"Production in Kerala is gradually declining. Earlier, every household had coconut cultivation and got enough yield for home use. That time has gone. We now depend a lot on Tamil Nadu," he says, adding that coconut tree climbers, once ubiquitous, are now hard to find.

Kerala, named after kera (coconut), once stood tall as the land of coconut trees. Today, it fears losing that identity. Prices tell the story too. The humble coconut, once under Rs 30, now costs Rs 70–Rs 72. Coconut oil? Around Rs 400–Rs 410 per kg. Households are cutting down on purchases, and restaurants have already switched to other oils.

Why are Kerala's coconuts dying?

The offenders are diverse. Heat waves, warmer nights, and heavier, shorter rainstorms have all been brought on by climate change, which has increased insect infestations, particularly the destructive red palm weevil.

At the same time, there is a lack of competent coconut climbers in the state. In the past, traditional climbers made sure that harvests were healthy and cleaned tree crowns. These days, migrant workers frequently use climbing tools to pluck coconuts, but these tools are unable to reach the crown, leaving trees susceptible.

The land itself is evolving as well. Real estate development, including homes, flats, and commercial buildings, is replacing coconut fields.

As per Santhosh Kumar T, Assistant Professor and Head of the Coconut Research Station in Thiruvananthapuram, land conversion is a key factor.

"If you collect data from village officers, you can see that a lot of our coconut farms were converted to buildings," he said.

Neighboring states like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are now producing more coconuts by adopting scientific methods and

better farm care, widening the gap further as Kerala turns into a buyer instead of a supplier.

Can Kerala save its coconut identity?
Experts believe Kerala can turn this around, but only with deliberate effort.

"We need to increase planting. Cleaning should be done using skilled laborers. Proper manure and fertilizer application, proper lining should be done to increase yield. Restricting the increasing construction is also important," said Santhosh Kumar.

He notes that one encouraging trend is rubber farmers shifting focus to coconut, which could boost production if supported with scientific agricultural practices.

More than a crop: an emotional anchor
To ask a Malayali why coconut is in everything is to misunderstand Kerala entirely. The coconut isn't just food, it's tradition, livelihood, flavor, memory and identity.

This crisis is not just about supply and price. It's about culture. It's about a symbol.

Kerala once took pride in being the land of coconuts. Today, as trucks bring in coconuts from Tamil Nadu to mills like Hariharan's, the irony is hard to miss.

But Kerala's coconut story is not over, it needs urgent tending. Or the state stamped by the coconut tree may soon find itself looking up at a disappearing crown. *(India Today)*

TRADE NEWS

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

Further lower prices prevailed in the vegetable oils market this week.

Coconut oil in Rotterdam market remained a nonevent despite increasing buyers' participation observed from the nearby positions up to the first quarter of 2026. Opening offers were mixed with nearby positions firmer and forward deliveries weaker. Levels stood at $2,358.50-2,473.50/MT CIF for positions from November/December through to May/June 2026. Prices advanced the next day but from midweek headed downward again following other vegetable oils to settle at close at $2,325.00-2,412.50/MT.

Palm kernel oil likewise continued quiet and with buyers still conspicuously absent. Sellers opened the week with lower quotes at $1,810-1,845/MT CIF for positions from December/January through to March/April 2026, defying palm oil gains. Thereafter, prices virtually mirrored the coconut oil price action and closed the week lower at $1,757.50-1,810.00/MT.

The price premium of coconut oil over palm kernel oil rose anew across all positions from respective levels last week with price spreads expanding above the $600 threshold in a couple of positions. As a result, the weekly average increased to $578.04/MT from $547.29 a week ago and from $494.78 two weeks ago. Premium per position are shown following: November/December $601.20 ($522.95 last week); December/January 2026 $573.70 ($559.00); January/February $566.55 ($553.50); February/March $563.45 ($551.00); March/April $552.20 ($550.00); April/May $582.02 (new position); May/June $607.17 (new position).

At the CBOT soya complex market, soybean futures opened higher driven by Chinese purchases of 14 cargoes of US soybeans for December and January 2026 delivery, the largest purchase by China since the start of 2025 and the most significant since the Trump-Xi meeting in South Korea. Midweek though saw the market eased with traders becoming skeptical about meeting the 12 million MT target by the end of the year

coupled by improving weather in Argentina. At the close, however, levels returned to the positive zone on another Chinese buying of 1 million MT soybeans.

At the palm oil section, the market was firm earlier this week, receiving spillover strength from CBOT soybean oil. Towards the weekend, however, weakness prevailed tracking declines in soybean coupled with weaker export momentum. Cargo surveyors reported Malaysia's palm oil export for the period November 1-20 likely fell 14% from a similar period a month ago. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

MARKET ROUND-UP OF COCONUT OIL

In Rotterdam, the coconut oil market continued untraded. Buyers' participation notably improved as prices continued to ease but asking levels were far below offers. At the close, sellers quoted $2,412.50 for November/December; $2,380 for December/January 2026; $2,367.50 for January/February; $2,325 for February/March and March/April; $2,340 for April/May; and $2,345/MT CIF for May/June. Closing buyers asked $2,350 for November/December; $2,200 for January/February; $2,175/MT CIF for February/March and March/April; but neglected other positions. *(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, with price volatility counteracting 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 OF 2025, VIET NAM'S COCONUT EXPORTS COULD REACH US$1.15 BILLION

Viet 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.

The Viet Nam Coconut Association's general secretary, Cao Bá Đăng Khoa, reported that the sector's four primary product groups' exports reached $520 million in the first half of 2025, up 20% from the previous year.

Fresh coconuts, frozen coconut milk, crude coconut oil, and coconut-based culinary and cosmetic items are the four primary export product categories.

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 prioritize sustainable development by banning harmful pesticides and promoting good production practices to farmers and workers. Moreover, Viet 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.

China's General Administration of Customs (GACC) has approved six new cultivation area codes and coconut packing facilities in An Giang Province. This allows Vietnamese fresh coconuts to gain a stronger foothold in the Chinese market.

However, Khoa noted that while China consumes more than six billion coconuts annually, Vietnamese fresh coconuts only rank seventh to eighth in import volume. Conversely, in the processed coconut segment, Viet Nam holds a competitive advantage. *(Vietnam News)*

SRI LANKA WILL IMPOSE VAT ON IMPORTED PALM AND COCONUT OILS

The Sri Lankan government has suggested eliminating the Special Commodity Levy on imported palm and coconut oil and replacing it with a general tax structure that includes Value Added Tax.

As a result, President Anura Kumara Dissanayake stated during the release of the 2026 Budget that the new tax system on imported coconut and palm oil is expected to come into effect in April 2026.

Currently, imported coconut oil and palm oil are subject to Special Commodity Levy of Rs. 150 per kilogram and Rs. 275 per kilogram, respectively, while locally produced coconut oil and palm oil are subject to Value Added Tax and Social Security Contribution Levy.

The new tax proposal has been proposed to ensure a level playing field, the President stated. *(Adaderana)*

OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

INVESTMENTS IN DOWNSTREAM PALM OIL AND COCONUTS ARE INCREASING IN CENTRAL KALIMANTAN, INDONESIA

As of Monday, November 3, 2025, investment in East Kotawaringin, Central Kalimantan, Indonesia, has switched toward the palm oil and coconut processing industries due to increased investor interest in downstream projects and tighter control of plantation permits.

Diana Setiawan, the head of the East Kotawaringin Investment and One-Stop Integrated Services Agency (DPMPTSP), stated that although the number of new plantation permits has decreased since the Corruption Prevention Task Force (Satgas PKH) was established, investor interest in processing industries has increased dramatically.

"Investment in plantations has decreased compared to before the Satgas PKH was formed, but now we're seeing strong growth in downstream sectors such as palm kernel, CPO, and shell processing," Diana explained, in Central Kalimantan.

He revealed that three major companies are currently in the process of securing permits to build crude palm oil (CPO) processing plants in the region.

Among them, Sinarmas Group has made the most progress, having already obtained its official permit and entered the construction phase.

One of the best-prepared investors is Sinarmas Group. A full-scale palm oil downstream sector will be represented by their facility, which will not only produce raw CPO but also downstream products like chocolate and ice cream, he said.

Similar permit applications have been filed by two additional major businesses, which are awaiting regulatory approval. Both intend to construct facilities in East Kotawaringin's Bagendang Industrial Zone, an emerging industrial hub.

He underlined that in order to guarantee adherence to regional and national laws, the process for licensing is being handled selectively.

"This trend is very positive, as it aligns with the central government's policy to increase the value-added of local products," he added.

The shift toward downstream investment is not limited to palm oil. Diana noted that the same pattern is visible in the coconut processing industry. Two coconut processing plants are currently under construction, while another investor is in the feasibility study stage.

Three operational coconut processing plants will be located in the Bagendang Industrial Zone if all projects are completed, enhancing East Kotawaringin's prominence as a regional center for agro-based industries.

He claims that the East Kotawaringin economy will become more resilient and sustainable as a result of this increase in downstream investment. The expansion of corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives in neighboring communities and local job possibilities will result from the growth of processing industries.

"With strategic location and port access, Bagendang Industrial Zone has great potential to become a new growth center and leading industrial area in Central Kalimantan," he concluded. *(RRI)*

THE BIODIESEL GROUP CALLS FOR A MORE THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF HB 4151 IN ORDER TO AMEND THE BIOFUELS ACT OF 2006

The "Murang Langis Bill," House Bill (HB) 4151, seeks to alter the Biofuels Act of 2006 (Republic Act 9367). By enabling the president to temporarily halt the mandatory blending of biofuels with petroleum products, it aims to alleviate the high cost of fuel. The National Biofuels Board (NBB) and the Department of Energy (DOE) recommend that if the price of blended gasoline or diesel increases by at least 5% over unblended fuel, the president may suspend the blending requirement for a maximum of one year.

The Philippine Biodiesel Association (TPBA) last Sunday said discussions on HB 4151 should consider its wide impact on motorists, coconut farmers, and public health. TPBA noted that the biodiesel program supports the livelihoods of around 25 million Filipinos in the coconut industry, providing market stability for replanting, modernization, and productivity

initiatives. Moreover, the association pointed to the health benefits of coco-biodiesel, which can reduce soot emissions by up to 95%, contributing to the avoidance of an estimated P1.86 to 2.2 trillion in annual health costs.

TPBA clarified that blended diesel is not always more expensive. During periods of unstable global oil prices, coco-biodiesel can be cheaper than pure diesel. The group explained that a B3 (3-percent) blend adds only P0.71 per liter to B2, or less than 2 percent, while B5 may add around 3 percent, but studies by the DOE and the University of the Philippines-National Center for Transportation Studies (UP-NCTS) show it can improve fuel efficiency by 6 to 10 percent. The improved fuel efficiency results in consumer savings of P17 billion to P32.60 billion each year. The B3 blend has been in place since October 2024. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

WHILE SOYBEAN OIL SURGED TO A RECORD LEVEL, INDIA'S IMPORTS OF PALM OIL FELL TO A FIVE-YEAR LOW

During the 2024–2025 marketing year, which ended in October, the country's imports of palm oil dropped to their lowest point in five years, according to the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA), while purchases of soybean oil surged to an all-time high as a growing price premium made palm oil less appealing to consumers.

According to a statement from SEA, palm oil imports during the marketing year dropped 15.9% from the previous year to 7.58 million MT, the lowest since 2019–20. According to the SEA, imports of soybean oil increased 59% to a record 5.47 million tons during the year, while purchases of sunflower oil decreased 16.3% to 2.9 million tons.For most of the marketing year, palm oil traded at a premium to soybean oil, prompting refiners to switch to soybean oil, said B.V. Mehta, executive director of the SEA.

India's total vegetable oil imports in the year rose marginally to 16.36 million MT from the previous year's 16.23 million MT. Palm oil's share dropped to a record low of 47% from 56% last year, while soybean oil and sunflower oil together increased, rising to a combined share of 53% from 44%. Palm oil mainly come from Indonesia and Malaysia, and soybean oil and sunflower oil from Argentina, Brazil, Russia and Ukraine. It was also noted that refined vegetable oil imports from Nepal rose sharply to a record 746,400 MT, as the Himalayan nation's exports enjoy duty-free access. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

A COMPREHENSIVE OIL PALM DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO REDUCE THE GHANA IMPORT BILL

According to a November 13 Joy Online story, Ghana has made a significant move to reduce its enormous palm oil import bill and revitalize its once-thriving oil palm business.

Finance Minister Dr. Cassiel Ato Forson announced the development of a national strategy on Integrated Oil Palm Development during the 2026 Budget presentation. This policy intends to save the government about US$200 million annually, which is the amount spent on importing approximately 200,000 metric tons of crude palm oil.

The new policy would focus on expanding plantations, strengthening local refineries and processing capacity, as well as promoting value addition to ensure Ghana fully benefits from its agricultural potential. To make the plan viable, Dr. Forson said the government will acquire large tracts of suitable land in partnership with the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, ensuring fair compensation to affected landowners and communities. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

HEALTH NEWS

COCONUT WATER NATURALLY REPLENDS ELECTROLYTES IN 7 WAYS

Sodium, potassium, calcium, and magnesium are examples of electrolytes, which are vital

minerals that promote muscle function, maintain fluid balance, and control nerve messages. When you perspire—during physical activity, in hot conditions, or when you have a disease that causes vomiting or diarrhea—you lose electrolytes. The finest natural option for replenishing your body's electrolytes is coconut water.

The transparent liquid within young, green coconuts is called coconut water. It is hydrating, fat-free, and a natural supply of potassium, sodium, calcium, magnesium, and many other electrolytes that your body requires.

1. Supports Recovery
Coconut water helps restore your body's electrolyte balance and prevents dehydration after exercise, exposure to heat, or illness.

2. Rich in Potassium
One cup of coconut water has more potassium than a banana, helping prevent muscle cramps and supporting muscle function.

3. Natural Sodium and Magnesium
Coconut water is lower in sodium than many sports drinks, but it still provides enough to replenish losses after mild to moderate activity. Its magnesium content also supports muscle relaxation and energy production.

4. Low in Calories and Sugar
Unlike many electrolyte beverages and sports drinks, coconut water contains natural sugars rather than added sweeteners. An 8-ounce serving typically has only 43 calories, making it a healthier option.

5. Gentle on Digestion
Its natural composition is easy on the stomach, so you can drink it during or after exercise, or while recovering from illness, without digestive discomfort.

6. Provides Antioxidants
Coconut water contains antioxidants that help reduce inflammation and protect cells from oxidative stress.

7. Supports Hydration
In addition to electrolytes, coconut water provides bioactive enzymes that may aid digestion and metabolism, helping your body stay hydrated more effectively than water alone.

Coconut water is the best natural choice for replenishing electrolytes. For intense exercise or when you lose a lot of fluids due to illness, other drinks, such as sports drinks, milk, or oral rehydration solutions, can also help restore electrolyte balance. Healthy hydration comes from drinks that replenish electrolytes and skip the added sugar. *(Health)*

EXPERT ADVICE ON USING COCONUT OIL FOR HAIR

For more than 4,000 years, coconut oil—heralded as a multipurpose marvel—has been a mainstay of Eastern beauty. However, we haven't gone crazy for it in the west until the last ten or so years. Coconut oil is now regarded as the pinnacle of natural beauty and is used for everything from tooth whitening to cleaning

The famous ingredient has also been hailed as a hair hero. Coconut oil, which is high in fatty acids and vitamins, is supposed to help calm the scalp and moisturize hair cuticles. Additionally, there are rumors that it may support healthy hair development.

Celebrities like Miranda Kerr and Kourtney Kardashian frequently promote coconut oil for hair, making it popular among the A-listers. Additionally, complete skincare and hair care lines that highlight the naturally occurring fatty oil are now available.

It has been somewhat of a social media darling in recent years, showing up in a ton of beauty videos. A video that has received more than 70,000 likes refers to it as a "hidden gem." Another, which has more than 400,000 likes, asserts that applying it for 20 minutes will help the hair.

However, it's worth paying attention to our experts' advice before you reach into your kitchen cabinet and begin dousing your hair in the stuff.

Does coconut oil benefit your hair?
"Coconut oil is one of many oils that can be used on the hair to improve its condition – and it's actually one of the most studied oils in terms of the hair," Anabel Kingsley, consultant trichologist and brand president at Philip Kingsley, tells us.

It has been demonstrated to be able to penetrate the hair shaft, control porosity, and lessen protein loss because of its low molecular weight and structure. It contains a lot of lauric acid, a fatty acid that thoroughly coats every hair strand and penetrates the hair shaft, retaining moisture and making it water-repellent.

In summary, this means that because of the coconut oil force field you've generated around your hair, humidity won't affect you regardless of the weather.

Additionally, lauric acid contains antimicrobial properties that have been shown to improve the microbes of the scalp.

"In terms of the scalp, coconut oil can be useful when it's formulated into wash-off scalp masks or ointments to address scalp conditions, like psoriasis, as it helps to soften scale and plaques making them easier to remove," says Anabel. A good example of this is Cocois, which also contains coal tar and salicylic acid.

What is the recommended amount of coconut oil?
Use coconut oil moderately because you might have too much of a good thing. Since this kind of yeast feeds on lauric acid, overapplying could make dandruff worse. Additionally, it may block pores and accumulate on the scalp and hair.

Anabel says, "Start with a small amount and adjust as necessary because using too much coconut oil on your hair may weigh it down." After application, people with finer hair or naturally oily scalps may notice that their hair feels and looks oily.

Which types of hair benefit from coconut oil?
People with curly, dry, or Afro hair typically benefit the most from coconut oil because these hair types are known to be drier. Luke Benson, a celebrity session stylist and proprietor of Luke Benson Hair, says, "A lot of Afro products are based on coconut oil because it deeply moisturizes the hair and penetrates the hair shaft."

Anabel continues, "Coarse or coiled hair may do better with a serum with a higher percentage, while finer hair can benefit from a lighter emulsion with a lower percentage of oil."

Which kind of coconut oil is best for my hair?
It's crucial to utilize extra virgin coconut oil if you choose to use it for its hair-boosting properties. These are free of chemicals that could irritate the scalp, such as bleach.

Do you apply coconut oil to wet or dry hair?
According to Luke, "coconut oil can go onto dry or wet hair," albeit this will depend on the advantages you hope to achieve. Luke goes on, "Apply it to dry hair before you wash it as a pre-shampoo treatment." Apply it to dry hair as a finishing product and to wet hair as a detangler or hair mask.

How long do you leave coconut oil on your hair?
You may either leave coconut oil on your hair overnight or wash it off after 20 to 30 minutes if you're using it as a hair mask. If your hair is finer, only apply it to the ends of your hair, where it is very dry, and rinse it off sooner rather than on your scalp.

Can I use coconut oil to promote hair growth?
To put it briefly, no. Although coconut oil has the potential to strengthen hair and is a terrific

quick cure for instant smoothness and shine, it is not the best ingredient for long-term hair health or growth.

"Growth is mainly affected by what you feed it at the roots, which means the nutrients in your diet," continues Luke.

For hair growth, choose products that contain ingredients like caffeine, which boosts circulation to the scalp, promoting hair growth. Check out our round up of the best products to boost hair growth here.

Can you style hair with coconut oil?
Coconut oil doesn't have any hold and can be heavy on the hair so it's not really a great styler, as such. But you could use a small amount smoothed onto the ends to add shine and stop flyaways. *(Glamour)*

COCONUT RECIPE

COCONUT, CHICKEN AND CHICKPEA CHILI

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
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15. 1 cup coconut milk
16. A handful of fresh cilantro, finely chopped
17. Juice of one lemon
18. Salt and additional black pepper, to taste

(One Green Planet)

STATISTICS

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

MONTH	Indonesia			Philippines			Sri Lanka		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
January	14,435	17,585	18,567	7,793	10,757	11,164	767	880	301
February	15,008	15,096	16,801	8,685	14,363	11,326	882	1,583	606
March	16,907	15,793	14,497	11,824	10,803	13,316	348	1,358	347
April	11,384	11,982	16,170	11,517	14,236	15,673	416	924	485
May	17,456	14,272	18,955	10,444	4,110	14,068	810	1,035	870
June	16,603	14,211	14,350	8,168	13,666	12,654	792	1,103	902
July	17,676	17,706	22,082	7,682	13,482	12,244	892	1,586	805
August	15,863	20,684	18,683	7,878	12,932	16,993	1,044	666	752
September	15,613	18,205	23,806	11,603	11,039		1,355	648	627
October	17,916	20,824	20,126	12,370	13,912		841	280	1,043
November	16,499	16,624		9,859	11,718		764	439	
December	15,910	20,029		10,218	9,262		1,063	583	
TOTAL	**191,270**	**203,011**	**184,036**	**118,041**	**140,280**	**107,438**	**9,974**	**11,085**	**6,738**

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

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

MONTH	Indonesia			Philippines			Sri Lanka		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
January	1,440	1,191	1,110	5,466	4,006	4,710	3,441	4,958	4,776
February	1,430	1,540	1,482	4,203	3,888	4,403	4,035	4,712	4,416
March	1,415	1,212	1,269	5,859	3,759	5,896	4,311	5,707	5,565
April	1,361	1,370	1,430	5,334	4,551	4,529	4,021	4,974	4,088
May	1,607	1,652	1,514	6,139	4,331	5,532	5,518	4,489	4,663
June	1,637	1,219	1,347	5,710	4,408	5,520	4,342	4,749	4,254
July	1,734	1,470	1,395	3,752	6,950	4,673	4,422	5,014	5,005
August	1,786	1,455	1,407	4,187	5,738	4,218	4,231	5,145	5,038
September	1,797	1,425	1,326	5,543	5,106		4,317	4,792	4,507
October	1,575	1,278	1,060	3,892	6,632		4,303	4,007	4,512
November	1,312	1,864		4,741	4,385		4,089	4,549	
December	1,700	1,421		5,362	4,938		4,509	5,285	
TOTAL	**18,793**	**17,097**	**13,339**	**60,188**	**58,692**	**39,480**	**51,539**	**58,381**	**46,824**

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

Table 3. Export Destination of Activated Carbon from Philippines and Indonesia, January-October 2025

Philippines			Indonesia*)		
Country of Destination	Volume (MT)	Value (US$ 000)	Country of Destination	Volume (MT)	Value (US$ 000)
1. JAPAN	9,941	21,892	1. AUSTRALIA	2,022	5,912
2. OTHERS	10,793	20,754	2. BANGLADESH	2,539	3,881
3. CHINA	6,755	12,518	3. BELGIUM	4,744	3,647
4. GERMANY	2,982	11,025	4. CANADA	1,154	2,604
5. INDONESIA	3,965	10,101	5. OTHERS	1,003	2,296
6. USA	3,518	6,803	6. CHINA	465	1,198
7. REPUBLIC OF KOREA	3,886	4,401	7. ESTONIA	494	1,172
8. TAIWAN	3,039	4,382	8. FINLAND	363	685
9. SRI LANKA	2,132	4,150	9. FRANCE	176	517
10. UNITED STATES	1,046	2,784	10. GERMANY	211	489
11. ITALY	1,022	2,505	11. JAPAN	169	402
Total	**49,080**	**101,315**	**Total**	**13,339**	**22,803**

Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia and Philippine Statistics Authority

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

Month	2023		2024		2025	
	Volume (MT)	Value US$'000	Volume (MT)	Value US$'000	Volume (MT)	Value US$'000
January	5,104	11,294	3,989	7,260	5,538	13,024
February	2,817	6,855	3,824	8,060	4,050	9,338
March	3,876	9,328	4,087	9,140	5,214	13,080
April	3,435	7,940	4,856	10,060	5,396	13,500
May	3,418	8,421	4,833	10,489	4,548	10,929
June	4,269	8,929	4,261	9,450	4,274	12,123
July	4,420	8,392	3,740	7,907	4,044	11,397
August	4,210	7,866	4,183	9,182	5,100	15,906
September	3,420	6,836	4,049	9,078	3,523	11,139
October	5,209	10,728	4,786	11,752		
November	3,456	7,152	5,490	11,717		
December	3,028	5,925	4,490	11,569		
Total	**46,663**	**99,665**	**52,587**	**115,665**	**41,688**	**110,435**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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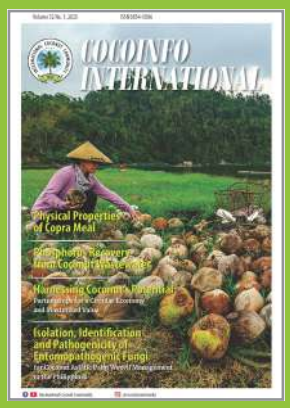

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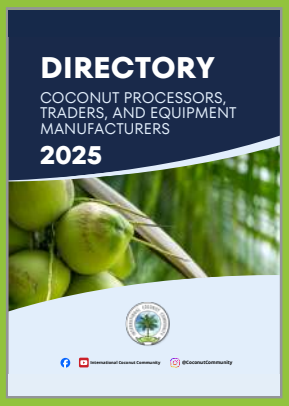

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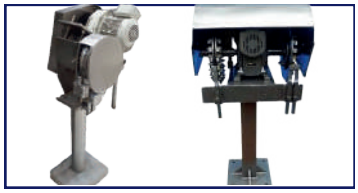

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