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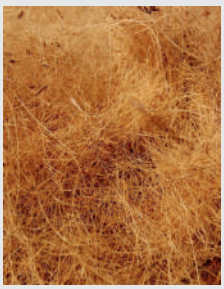

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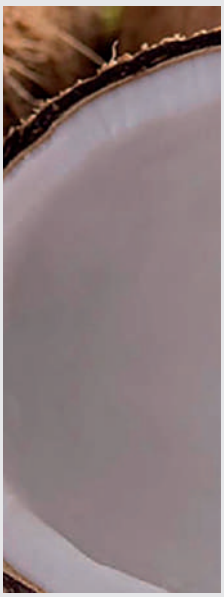

Think Coconut. Think TIGL.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPEAKS ...

"Innovation and Collaboration in Coconut Value Addition Strategies"

Innovation is related to improving the existing products, processing and packaging technologies, service, or creating new ones. In the coconut sector, innovation is needed to address challenges in all value chains. One of the key successes of sustainable coconut industry development is to increase the production of desired varieties as most of the coconut palms are senile. Technologies for increasing production are available from using superior varieties, developing smart farming, and hybridization. However, this isn't enough to meet the continuously growing demand and competition of raw materials and reduce transport costs. Innovation in propagation techniques through tissue culture could accelerate the availability of desired varieties and solve the seed transportation cost problem. Innovation to improve and scale up the existing micropropagation techniques to produce affordable seeds at the farmer level should be pursued as it would be greater support to the industry. Only low-cost and efficient producers can survive and compete in the production sector.

Innovation in the processing techniques, packaging, and supporting machinery and marketing systems that are cost-effective and eco-friendly are also required. There is a great opportunity to add value and gain more profit by targeting certain consumer preferences such as good quality products, sugar with a low glycemic index, milk with affordable lactose-free substitute to animal milk, skim coconut milk with low-fat content, and protein-rich products. Biodegradable products made of coconut husk and shell have been produced by many countries as affordable and eco-friendly alternative products.

Considering that some farmers, individuals, or small enterprises relatively don't have all the necessary skills for producing raw materials, processing, marketing, and business management, a capacity building, technology transfer, and collaborative partner network or coordination between producers, processors, and those that market coconut products are important to reduce cost and increase market efficiency. The new industry should cope with the high competition with well-established industries. Most consumers in developed countries and some in developing countries increasingly rely on brand or company reputations as quality guides. Horizontal coordination or collaboration deals with individuals or enterprises from the same level of the value chain, on the other hand, vertical coordination includes strategic alliances in different levels of value chains. The value of these collaborations is to increase multilevel learning and technology transfer, and to manage well the risk involved. Access to local and international markets with added-value products is essential to improve income and maximize profit.

DR. JELFINA C. ALOUW
Executive Director

PREVAILING MARKET PRICES OF SELECTED COCONUT PRODUCTS AND OILS

Price of Coconut Crude Oil (CNO) decreased in India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka. Price of Desiccated Coconut (DC) decreased in Philippines and Sri Lanka but increased in Indonesia.

COPRA: The price of copra in Indonesia was US$916/MT in June 2021, which the same with the last month's price. Compared to the same month of last year the price was US$ 383/MT higher.

In the domestic market of the Philippines (Manila), the price increased by US$ 50/MT from US$884/MT to US$934/MT. The price was US$415/MT higher compared to the price of US$519/MT in March 2020.

COCONUT OIL: The average price of coconut oil in Europe (C.I.F. Rotterdam) for June 2021 was decreased from US$1,684/MT in May 2021 to 1,631/MT in June 2021. This price was higher by 77% when compared to the price in June 2020 at US$920/MT.

The average local price of coconut oil in the Philippines in May 2021 was unquoted.

The FOB price of coconut oil in Indonesia in June 2021 scaled down by US$40/MT compared to the previous month from US$1,518/MT to US$1,478/MT. June 2021 price was US$629/MT higher than the price of the same month of 2020 which was US$849/MT.

COPRA MEAL: The average domestic price of the commodity in the Philippines at selling points was quoted at US$262/MT. The price was US$16/MT higher compared to the previous month and was US$1/MT higher than the last year price for the same month.

The average domestic price of copra meal in Indonesia was US$296/MT which was higher than previous month price. The price was US$78/MT higher than last year's price in the same month.

DESICCATED COCONUT: The average price of desiccated coconut (DC) FOB USA in June 2021 was US$2,521/MT, which was lower than previous month price and US$331/MT higher than the price of the same month last year.

In Sri Lanka, the domestic price of desiccated coconut in June 2021 was US$2,747/MT or US$125/MT lower than in May 2021. Meanwhile, the price of DC in the domestic market of Philippines in June 2021 was US$2,039/MT, was the same as price in May 2021 also in May 2020. Indonesian price of DC in June 2021 increased by US$25/MT and was higher compared to last year's price of US$1,875/MT.

COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL: In Philippines, the average price of the commodity in June 2021 was US$517/MT which was lower than previous month's price. Meanwhile, Indonesia's charcoal price increased from US$600/MT in May 2021 to US$601/MT in June 2021. Moreover, compared to last year's price, the price was higher by US$35/MT. Sri Lankan's price in June 2021 was US$519/MT which was higher than last year's price.

COIR FIBRE: Coir fiber was traded in the domestic market in Sri Lanka at US$143/MT for mix fiber and US$576/MT-US$876/MT for bristle. The Indonesian price for mixed raw fiber was US$330/MT in June 2021 which was higher US$45/MT than last year's price.

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

Products/Country	2021 Jun	2021 May	2020 Jun	2021 (Annual Ave.)
Dehusked Coconut				
Philippines (Domestic)	222	253	173	241
Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use)	207	211	168	217
Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use)	289	315	278	315
India (Domestic Kerala)	558	576	452	640
Copra				
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	967	960	585	933
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	916	916	533	868
Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo)	1,914	2,020	1,506	1,717
India (Dom. Kochi)	1,589	1,634	1,316	1,764
Coconut Oil				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	1,631	1,684	920	1,549
Philippines (Domestic)	n.q.	n.q.	853	n.q.
Indonesia (Domestic)	1,478	1,518	849	1,409
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	3,488	3,685	2,720	3,054
India (Domestic, Kerala)	2,502	2,566	2,115	2,752
Desiccated Coconut				
Philippines FOB (US), Seller	2,521	2,528	2,190	2,523
Philippines (Domestic)	2,039	2,039	2,039	2,039
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	2,747	2,872	2,580	2,868
Indonesia (FOB)	2,450	2,425	1,875	2,311
India (Domestic)	n.q.	2,081	1,828	2,360
Copra Meal Exp. Pel.				
Philippines (Domestic)	262	246	261	229
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	347	366	n.q.	338
Indonesia (Domestic)	296	280	218	289
Coconut Shell Charcoal				
Philippines (Domestic), Buyer	517	518	369	492
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	516	495	383	522
Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer	601	600	566	596
India (Domestic)	n.q.	542	410	573
Coir Fibre				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre)	143	118	107	120
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	576	627	516	599
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	876	852	802	845
Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre)	330	330	285	319
Other Oil				
Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	1,419	1,530	761	1,438
Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	1,017	1,163	652	1,049
Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill)	1,420	1,499	752	1,232

Exchange Rate

Jun 30, '21 1 US$ = P48.87 or Rp14,516 or India Rs74.33 or SL Rs199.59
1 Euro = US$1.19 *n.q. = no quote*

MARKET REVIEW OF COIR

In the first half of 2021, price of coir showed an increasing trend both in Sri Lanka and Indonesia. Price of coir fibre in Sri Lanka was US$107/MT in December 2020 and was gradually easing to reach US$143/MT in June 2021 accounting for price appreciation by 33%. Similarly, price of coir fibre in Indonesia showed a positive trend following global market recovery. Price of coir fibre in December 2020 was USD313/MT and leveled up to US$330/MT in June 2021. Price of coir fibre is expected to maintain its trend following an improving demand.

Amid global pandemic, coir industry showed a pertinent growth. Latest data from India and Sri Lanka, the main coir producing countries, confirm the impressive performance of the industry. The two countries experienced an increase in both export volume and export revenue. This is in continuation of the positive market development from the last decade. It is worth noting that exports of coir products from India kept strengthening from 321 thousand tons in 2010 to 989 thousand tons in 2019 with compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 13% over the period from 2010-2019. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka exports of coir products were also showing an increasing trend. During the period from 2010-2020, export volume of coir products from Sri Lanka was 360 thousand tons with CAGR of 4%. The average annual export revenue was Rs. 25,922 million or equivalent to US$133 million. Total export volume from the two countries in 2020 was more than 1,5 million tons creating export revenue of more than US$ 4 billion.

The latest report from Coir Board of India showed that during April 2020-March 2021, a total volume of 1.16 million tons of coir and coir products were shipped from India to the global market. The volume hiked by 18% as opposed to the period of April 2019-March 2020 and created export revenue of Rs. 27,579 million or equivalent to US$374.68 million. Coir pith was still the main product sent globally accounting for 71% of total volume and contributed 61% of the total export revenue. It is obvious that the pandemic has not affected coir market from India.

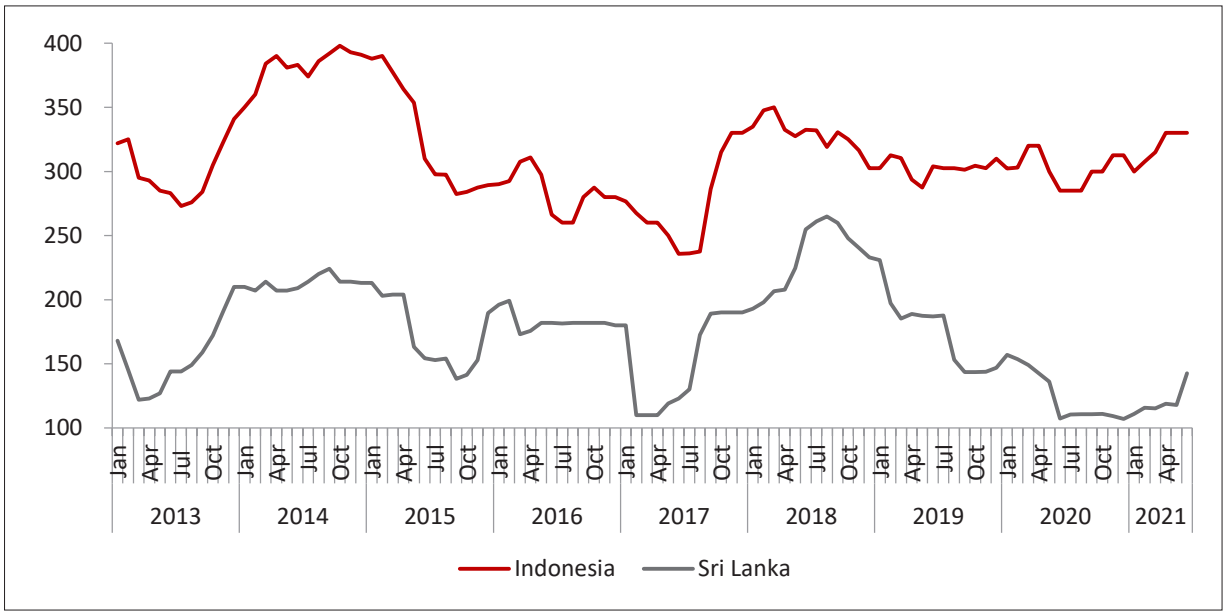

Figure 1. Average Monthly Price of Coir Fibre, January 2013 - June 2021 (US$/MT)

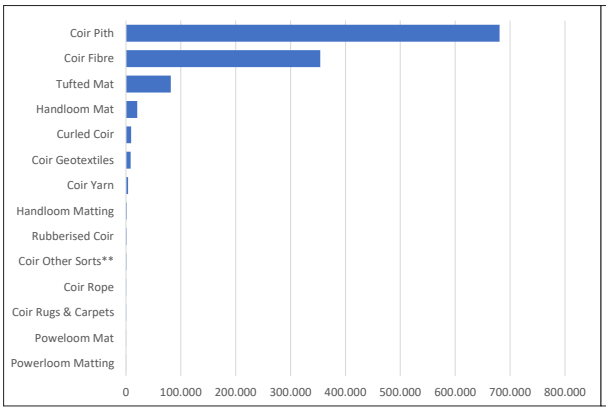

Figure 2. Export Volume of Coir Products from India, April 2020 - March 2021

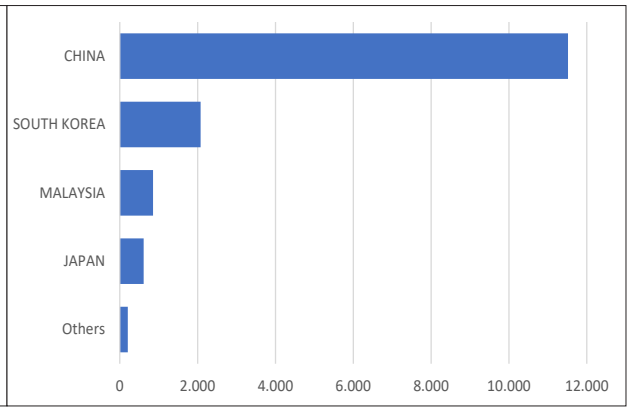

Figure 4. Export destination of Coir Products from Indonesia, January - May 2021 (MT)

During the period, global market destinations of coir products from India included 106 countries in all continents. The major destinations were China, USA, Netherlands, South Korea and Spain which covered 75% of global demand for Indian coir products.

During January-May 2021, export volume of coir-based products from Indonesia was 15,267 MT which lower than previous year volume of 15,869 MT. However, in terms of value, the export scaled up by 2.1% reflecting higher prices of the products. China was still major destination for coir from Indonesia. During the period, more than 75% of coir products from Indonesia was sent to China. Other destinations include South Korea, Malaysia, Japan and Saudi Arabia. Coir fibre and coir pith were the main products sent from Indonesia to global market.

In Sri Lanka, moulded coir products used for horticulture were the country's highest contributor to the export revenue from coir-based products during the first 4 months of 2021. In the period, export value of moulded coir products which were mainly used for horticulture was US$51.41 million, accounting for more than 66% of the total export value of coir-based products. The export value was 68% higher compared to the previous year's value. In terms of volume, the export was higher by 56% as opposed to the volume a year earlier. Other products that significantly contributed to the export earnings were mattress fibre, twisted fibre and coir pith. In total, export revenue of coir products during the period was US$77.3 million, an annual increase of 59.5%.

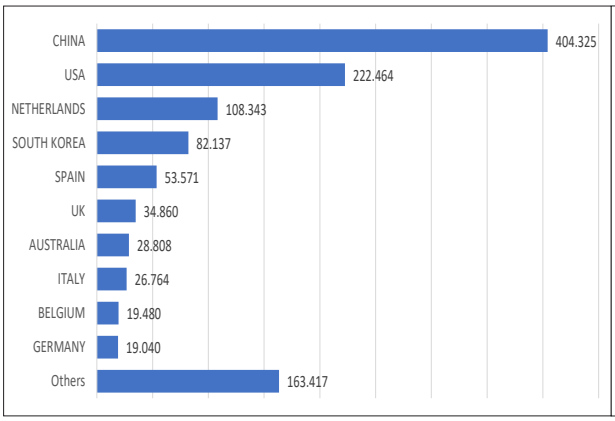

Figure 3. Export Destinations of Coir Products from India (MT), April 2020 - March 2021

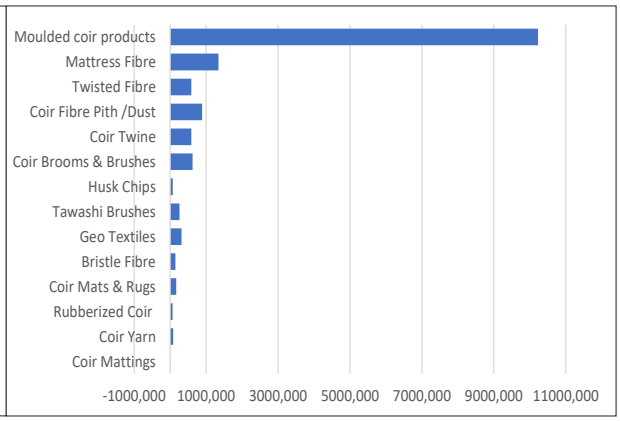

Figure 5. Export Earnings of Coir Products from Sri Lanka, January - April 2021 (Rs million)

COMMUNITY NEWS

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL COCONUT COMMUNITY AND UNIVERSITY OF SAM RATULANGI, MANADO

Memorandum of Understanding executed between Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director, International Coconut Community, and Ms. Elen Joan Kumaat, Chancellor, University of Sam Ratulangi Manado, on Monday the 31st May during the 61st anniversary (dies natalis) of the Faculty of Agriculture of the Sam Ratulangi University.

The main objective and purpose of this MoU are to strengthen cooperation between the two parties in supporting the government on the establishment of a coconut development policy and the implementation of the program and to formalize effective linkages between the two parties for efficient transfer of technology and capacity building on various aspects of the coconut sector for mutual goals.

The scope of the Memorandum is to strengthen the institutional relationship between the parties to be able to engage in efforts to support a safe, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable coconut community; conduct research and development in areas of mutual interest; and strengthen capacity development and publication.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed in the presence of Mr. Olly Dondokambey, Governor of the North Sulawesi, faculties of the university, regents of North Minahasa, Central Minahasa, and South Minahasa, mayor of Tomohon city, and the invitees from the Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Indonesia. The function was held in the auditorium of the university which was attended by more than 300 participants virtually and 100 participants physically. This is the beginning of the relationship between the ICC and the university and will collaborate for long-term cooperation for the welfare of the coconut farmers and industries in North Sulawesi, Indonesia, and can contribute to the development of the global coconut sector. *(ICC News)*

WEBINAR ON BEST PRACTICES FOR COCONUT HUSK PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT: FROM INITIAL CONCEPTS TO MARKET SUCCESS

Continuing with the second phase of the implementation of the MOU between ICC and NAM-Center, the first webinar of CY 2021 organized on "Best Practices for Coconut Husk Product Development: from Initial Concepts to Market Success" on 8th June 2021. There were 298 registered participants which included representatives from the ICC and NAM-CSSTC countries, scientists, UNDP staff, senior officials, private sectors, stakeholders and farmers.

Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director, ICC, delivered the welcome speech. She mentioned that by organizing and implementing such programs, ICC Secretariat ensures its commitment to serve member countries to achieve ICC's vision of improving the socio-economic welfare of the farmers and other stakeholders in the vibrant coconut sector. The objectives of this webinar are to raise awareness that coconut husk can be feasibly processed into a variety of marketable profitable products and market demand for coconut-based products is increasing and projection for future growth is stronger. Ironically, with the global production of 67.5 billion nuts, about 90% of the coconut husk in most coconut producing countries is disposed of as waste, and only a small portion has been processed into profitable, durable, healthy, and eco-friendly products.

She also highlighted the involvement of the millennials and women as entrepreneurs in the coconut sector. Two of the resource speakers are millennial and woman who are involved in the coconut coir business. The millennials generation and others are expected to make a profound contribution to achieve sustainable

development goals and sustaining the coconut sector. The use of choir-based products becomes an alternative to save the environment and to save the world. She hoped that the webinar inspired ideas and discussions around the development of a business plan for coconut husk-based products, for the local and global market, for the benefit of coconut farmers and their families and supporting the resilience and sustainable coconut industry.

In his opening speech, His Excellency Mr. Mahendra Siregar, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Indonesia, appreciated the high-level engagement and exchanges between experts with the technical skills and deep knowledge, in enhancing the capacity of the coconut stakeholders, exchanging across countries, generation, involving all levels of background and professions. The foreign ministry hoped that other series of collaboration will continue in the future, as a result of the MoU between the NAM-Center and ICC. Besides technical and experience exchanges between multi-stakeholders in this industry, the event also focused on the sustainability of the industry and value chains.

He encouraged the ICC and NAM Centre to continue exploring the opportunities for the stakeholders of the coconut industry to increase the standard and achieving the sustainability levels, with various technology and research. He wished that the participants could optimize the event for their knowledge and benefits, as well as to strengthen the momentum of collaboration and partnership.

The topic of "Economic and Environmental Impacts of processing of Coconut Husk-based products" was presented by two speakers. The first speaker, Silvia Ten Houten, Founder GoodHout, the Netherland, underlined the company's values in gender equality, fair-trade supply chain with suppliers, an educational fund for children, continuous education for local employees, and the company's impact on 10 of 17 UN SDGs. She urged the action required to increase sustainability and combat climate change. She also presented the production process of various innovative products from husk as an alternative to wood, applied to home interior, automotive, fashion, and accessories which features a high-end and natural finish.

The second speaker, Galih Batara Muda, founder of Roemah Kelapa Indonesia, presented "Impacts of Processing of Coconut Husk-Based Products". Started with the overview of coconut and husk potential, and explained the serious impact of coconut husk burning and coconut problem in Indonesia. This is the reason why we need innovation, collaboration, technology, investment, and marketing in the husk innovative products, such as a husk face mask.

Mr. A. Radhakrishnan, Assistant Director, National Coir Training and Design Centre, Coir Board of India, presented "Processing and Development of Coconut Husk-based Products", in which he explained the overview of coir industry in India, which is a traditional, labor-intensive, export-oriented agro-industry, employs more than half a million people in a rural area with about 80% are women. India exported coir to more than 122 countries. The Coir Board was set up for sustainable development of the coir industry, encouraging scientific, technological, and economic research, quality improvement, human resources development, the welfare of those engaged in the industry, and market promotion. He also presented various creative products such as furniture, floor mat, coir wood house, geo-textile, and other value-added coir products, also the training provided by the institution.

Mr. S. K. Gowthaman, Consultant and exporter of Coir Based products, India, presented, "Manufacture and Export of Coir and Coir-based Products, Hydroponic". He mentioned that the number of plastic waste generated worldwide which is estimated at 1.6 million ton per day and about 900 million trees are cut down annually. Coir is an alternative eco-friendly substitute to plastic in our daily use, such as toothbrushes, doormats, furniture, gardening, packing materials, and children's toys. He also focused on various coco

pith products used for hydroponics, medical value plant seed, germination or propagation, enrich coco pith manure, and grow bags for soilless cultivation. The coco pith is advisable and suitable for home gardening.

The last speaker was exceptional because she was a millennial generation. Ms. Febiola Efriani, Vice President, Mahligai Indococo Fiber, PT Indonesia, presented "Marketing Scope of Coconut Husk-based Products", based on her experience in leading the company. The company has been optimizing the digital marketing platforms for the domestic and international markets. Continued with the company's overview, marketing strategies, and competitive advantages, SWOT analysis, and various value-added coco pith products of PT MIF for different countries' markets. A video of the coco pith production process was also played.

From the ICC Secretariat, Mr. Alit Pirmansah, Marketing and Statistics Officer, presented a brief marketing data of the global production of coir fiber, export and import demand of coir products, and coir prices fluctuation.

Mr. Ambassador Diar Nurbintoro, Acting Director, NAM CSSTC, delivered the closing remarks. He expressed that this event was a significant opportunity for emphasizing the link between sustainable development of coconut sector. Negative campaigns against coconut have a significant negative influence on agriculture, the development of coconut and the farmer's livelihoods. Plantations have been neglected and abandoned at the farmer level; production is barely sufficient to support the basic needs of the farmers. Many farmers still live in poverty. Collaboration between all the stakeholders will lead to greater force in defending coconut against the negative campaign. The diversification and promotion of eco-friendly coconut farming are essential to assist coconut farmers in struggling and sustaining their businesses. Coconut is therefore always an important topic for NAM Centre's activities to remind of the efforts should be taken to encourage coconut farmers and enhance their livelihood.

There was in-depth discussion on the topics, and the speakers addressed the queries. The webinar was moderated by Dr. Dedie Tooy, Head of Agricultural Technology Department Faculty of Agriculture, Sam Ratulangi University and member of ICC Technical Working Group. *(ICC News)*

VIRTUAL COURTESY MEETING BETWEEN THE EMBASSY OF SRI LANKA, JAKARTA AND THE ICC SECRETARIAT

A virtual courtesy meeting was held on 17th June in between H.E. Yasoja Gunasekera, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Indonesia and ASEAN and the International Coconut Community (ICC) Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia. The main agenda for the meeting was to to discuss the potential partnership and investment between major coconut industry of Sri Lanka and Indonesia. The embassy team was led by Her Excellency Ambassador and Mr. Arvy Harahap, Public Diplomacy Officer, Embassy of Sri Lanka. The ICC Secretariat team led by Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director and joined by Ms. Mridula Kottekate Assistant Director, Mr. Alit Pirmansah Market & Statistics Officer, Mr. Klaudio D. Hosang, Administrative & Finance Officer, and Mr. Otniel Sintoro Publication Officer, of ICC.

In her welcome address, Dr. Jelfina expressed her appreciation towards the initiative of the embassy of Sri Lanka in Jakarta for inviting the ICC for the discussion about the coconut sector and CBL Group's plan to invest in coconut industries in Indonesia. This investment potentially contributes to the positive economic growth, job creation, employment, and exchange of technologies to the local people of Indonesia.

Executive Director then proceeded with a presentation explaining the activities of ICC and related information. Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw made a detailed presentation of the ICC's vision and mission, activities, global coconut production, coconut export trend and value, country status 2020, programs and projects. She also mentioned various ICC publications and social

media accessible to member countries as the implementation of information and technology dissemination. ICC & COGENT build strategic networks and collaborations with several international organizations, such as ACIAR, UN-ESCAP, NAM-CSSTC, CIRAD, ITPGRFA-FAO, ITC, Pacific Community, CCA, BI-CIAT Alliances, some universities, SPC, CABI, and several coconut research Institutes.

Her Excellency Ambassador introduced the CBL group "Ceylon Biscuits Limited" of Sri Lanka as one of the largest conglomerates in Sri Lanka with a presence in more than 60 countries. Started in 1968, CBL Group has grown to be a multi-national corporation with 11 state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities in Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Bangladesh.

Responding to the Ambassador's request related to the intention of CBL Group to enter the Indonesian market through coconut industry, Executive Director presented the Indonesian coconut production and processing unit in different parts of Indonesia and the challenges, seven major coconut producing provinces, also major international hub ports.

There were in-depth and productive discussions on the potential collaboration and strategic implementation between both the countries. The Marketing and Statistics Officer, ICC will facilitate a meeting between different stakeholders from both countries.

The meeting concluded with thanks to the Ambassador and her team. *(ICC News)*

THE COCONUT COALITION OF THE AMERICAS IS LIGHTING UP LIVES FOR NATIONAL COCONUT DAY

In honor of National Coconut Day (June 26), the Coconut Coalition of the Americas (CCA) has launched its Lighting Up Lives initiative to raise funds to install solar panel lighting for coconut farmers. CCA, the non-profit organization serving as the united voice for the coconut industry, has partnered with Primex Isle de Coco Foundation to identify the farmers and install the solar lighting. Farmer families who have young children are eligible for this program, and the solar lighting will provide power for three light sources in the home.

"Coconut farmers are essential to the coconut industry," said CCA Executive Director Len Monheit. "Lighting Up Lives allows us to have a direct impact on these essential workers' quality of life. The solar lighting will allow the farmers' children to do their homework at night, for families to read together and do other activities that require light."

This program will benefit coconut farmers globally and the solar panel installation will take place from July to September.

CCA's core workplan is focused on growing the category, correcting coconut's allergen classification as a tree nut, changing the saturated fats narrative, supporting & enhancing sustainability practices, promoting quality standards, and defending the category against attacks. *(Tyler Morning Telegraph)*

SENATORS WANT TO GIVE COCONUT FARMERS MORE TIME TO REGISTER

Senators want to extend the deadline for the registration of coconut farmers who will benefit from the trust fund law and allow continuing registration for those who will not meet the set date.

The Senate committee on agriculture tackled the status of the Coconut Farmers Registry, which under Republic Act No. 11524 or the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act should be completed by the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) in 90 days or by June 11.

Senator Risa N. Hontiveros-Baraquel proposed an extension of another 90 days to Sept. 9.

Senator Cynthia A. Villar, chairperson of the committee on agriculture, recommended to altogether lift the deadline and make the registration for the coco levy funds "continuing."

Registration has reached more than 50% of the around 3.5 million target, Ms. Villar said. "My suggestion is it is a continuing registry since we have achieved 'yung (the) more than 50% then we can go ahead with our coco levy fund distribution," she said in the hearing.

Senator Francis N. Pangilinan, meanwhile, suggested maintaining a deadline to compel coconut farmers to register, but would still have continuous registration for those who cannot meet it.

PCA Administrator Benjamin R. Madrigal, Jr. said a total of 2.8 million farmers have been registered as of June 8.

He said this is composed of around 2.5 million farmers on record from 2015 to 2018 and around 315,000 new registrants. About 14,000 of those in the list were undergoing validation.

President Rodrigo R. Duterte in February signed RA 11524 which allows coconut farmers to benefit from the taxes collected from them totaling about P76 billion during the Marcos administration. The law also sought to declare coconut levy assets as trust funds to modernize and rehabilitate the coconut industry. *(Business World)*

GOA: SOON, A DRONE MAY BE ABLE TO DO YOUR COCONUT-PLUCKING

Soon, Goans will not have to wait for the much sought-after padeli (coconut plucker) to visit their homes for manual harvesting of coconuts. A 'fly cocobot' will do the task just fine at a reasonable cost. Not just that, it will also reduce the risk for human climbers.

Conceptualised by experts at the OLD GOA-based ICAR-CCARI and the Goa University, this drone-like device flies to the top of the tree and gets attached to the trunk with its 'grabbing arms'.

Its 'cutting arm' then opens up to cut the desired bunch of coconuts which can be chosen through a live video displayed on the screen of the remote-controlled module.

The innovation has already received national accolades and is now in the process of getting patented.

"With this device, coconut-plucking can be done from a safe distance without risking human life, by a trained person, and without any gender bias. The machine is conseptualised to have operational efficiency of 12-15 palms per hour," Goa University professor, Rajendra Gad, said.

The uniqueness of the fly cocobot lies in its suitability for use in mixed cropping plantation of coconut and black pepper, thereby leading to higher returns.

"Padelis generally avoid harvesting coconuts in coconut-black pepper systems due to difficulties in climbing the coconut trees on which the pepper plants climb. Also, manned and unmanned devices presently being used for harvesting coconuts are not compatible with the dual cropping system. Fly cocobot, on the other hand, is an excellent solution," Gad said.

The prototype design of the novel device — which is remotely controlled and ensures safe harvesting of coconuts — could even be used to harvest other palms like areca nut, palmyra palm, oil palm and date palm worldwide. It could also be modified for other farm operations like spraying and pruning.

ICAR-CCARI and Goa University will jointly file an application seeking a patent for the novel design of the machine to protect their intellectual property rights (IPR).

A national level 'Kritagya Agtech Hackathon' (Krishi Takaniki Gyan) was launched by ICAR's National Agricultural Higher Education Project

in 2020 to promote farm mechanisation. A total of 784 teams across India registered.

Cutting across stiff competition at the multilevel screening — first at zonal level among 89 teams and then at the national level among 25 teams — the fly cocobot was presented by Gad along with ICAR-CCARI principal scientist (horticulture) Adavi Rao Desai, and their students, Abhiraj Pednekar and Arman Shaikh.

The technology bagged first place for its novelty, innovative concept and cost-effective technical solutions and practical feasibility. *(The Times of India)*

SMOOTHIE BOWLS AND TEACUPS: KERALA'S COCONUT SHELLS IN A SUSTAINABLE AVATAR

Maria Kuriakose sources raw material for her business — coconut shells — from mills that extract the oil from the mature kernel (copra) and discard the exocarp. At the hands of artisans from across Kerala, these shells are sandpapered, varnished and transformed into designer smoothie bowls, planters, candle holders, cups and even cutlery.

Keen on working with natural products sourced from Kerala that would also help the agriculture sector, Maria zeroed in on coconut and also named her brand Thenga in honour of the State's native crop — *thenga* means coconut in Malayalam.

"I thought of using coconut water and husk before deciding on the shell. A small fraction was being used to make activated charcoal, but most of it was burnt as fuel in oil mills. Every part of the coconut is useful but making value-added items out of coconut shells is limited here, unlike in Southeast Asian countries," she says.

Working with coconut shell artisans in Kottayam, Kodungallur and Wayanad, she has given the craft a contemporary take. Traditionally, their market is confined to craft bazaars and fairs, but takers have been few due to limited product options.

Maria quit her corporate job in Mumbai in 2020 and returned to Kerala to focus on Thenga, which she had launched the year before. Her father, a retired engineer, helped her set up the manufacturing unit in her hometown Thrissur, where she made samples of coconut bowls with her mother. She then reached out to stores specialising in eco-friendly items. Now she divides her time between Thrissur and Palakkad, where she is based.

With orders trickling in, she started making small batches at the unit. Selling on e-commerce sites such as Amazon and Flipkart widened her customer base, forcing her to consider expansion. "I wasn't thinking of artisans until then because I was not sure whether there would be a market for shell products. Once I started getting orders, I brought artisans into the picture. After all, it would not have made sense to get them involved at the get-go and then have no work for them," she says.

Coconut shell ladles and spoons have long been used in Kerala kitchens; over time, though, as their popularity waned, artisans who made them have shifted to to manufacturing handicrafts and jewellery.

Normally these artisans don't have enough orders , so they don't rely on shell handicrafts for their income, says Maria. Working for Thenga, however, has brought about a positive change. "Though my orders are not large, I can give them work consistently. Thenga also helps them to market their products to new customers," she says.

She works with the artisans in product development, keeping the designs simple enough for large volume production. "This is a time-consuming process as they are handmade and a lot of effort goes into each piece," she adds.

Both Maria and the artisans take care of sourcing the raw material. Finding shells of the right dimension is not easy because it requires

sifting through mountains of discarded coconut shells and paying for a 'perfectly shaped' one. Thenga also manufactures coconut wood cutlery.

Shell sizes vary depending on the season. An average-sized shell can hold 200 ml, while jumbo size [Kerala coconut] can hold 500-600 ml. For larger bowls (800-900ml), she imports the shells from Vietnam. Her plans include a large-scale manufacturing unit to cater to domestic and export orders.

In order to ensure a sustainable, zero-waste natural product, she does not use any artificial substance in the making of these bowls. "We have trained the artisans to keep the products completely natural, so they use coconut oil instead of varnish for the final coat of polish," she says. *(The Hindu)*

NIGERIA TO ATTAIN COCONUT SELF-SUFFICIENCY BY 2030

The 2021 coconut planting season in the state was inaugurated by the Jigawa State chapter of the National Coconut Producers, Processors and Marketers Association (NACOPPMAN). According to the coordinator of the association, Hajiya Sakina Muhammad, the gesture was aimed at having coconut self-sufficiency in Nigeria by 2027.

"The parent body of this association is the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment. Coconut is a tropical plant that can grow anywhere under any condition, and Jigawa happens to be among the states in the North where the cultivation of coconut thrives," she told.

Hajiya Sakina said coconut had become a major foreign exchange earner for countries that produce it in large quantities. She quoted the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Alhaji Sabo Nanono as saying that 653 billion nuts were produced in 2013 and Nigeria currently produces 265,000 tons. According to her, this makes Nigeria the 18th producer of coconut in the world. *(Fresh Plaza)*

LAGOS GOVT, OAU COLLABORATE ON COCONUT DEVELOPMENT

The Lagos State Government has donated 300 coconut seedlings to the Teaching and Research Farm, Faculty of Agriculture, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State, for the establishment of a coconut plantation.

The state Commissioner for Agriculture, Abisola Olusanya, handed over the seedlings at the Lagos Farm Centre, Oko Oba, Agege.

Ms. Olusanya said the collaboration was part of the state's ongoing coconut development initiative aimed at promoting and expanding the coconut value chain in the country.

The commissioner, who was represented by Dapo Olakulehi, General Manager, Lagos State Coconut Development Authority (LASCODA), said the government would continue to collaborate with both private and public institutions to promote coconut research and development.

"This is primarily due to the report by World Atlas that there is an increase in the demand for coconut products by 500 per cent in the past five years, which led to the discussion on ways by which the Lagos State Government and Nigeria at large can benefit from this global market.

"In order to benefit from this market, there is need to create more awareness and promote the production, processing and utilisation of coconut.

"This will encourage and engage more people to take advantage of this global opportunity," the commissioner said.

Ms Olusanya noted that the administration of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu had provided over one million coconut seedlings to farmers

either directly from the government or indirectly through the coconut out-grower scheme.

She said that the coconut seedlings were not only for farmers in the state but for all others across the country who wished to venture into coconut production with Lagos State, being the final destination for its processing and commercialisation. *(Premium Times)*

WHAT WOULD HAWAII BE WITHOUT COCONUT PALMS?

When the first Polynesians arrived in these Islands, there were very few plants available as a food supply. Fortunately, they brought a great variety with them that we refer to as canoe plants. These included, banana, sugar cane, breadfruit, mountain apple taro, coconut and scores of others. They also brought pigs, jungle fowl and rats that changed our forests forever. At first, Hawaiians had to survive on food from the sea, seabirds, flightless birds like the Nene and others that soon became extinct. Once they established their gardens, life likely became much easier.

Today Hawaiian gardens are abundant with fruits, nuts and vegetables from all over the world thanks to the contributions of the many cultures that call Hawaii home.

Hawaiian gardens include hundreds of species of rare palms, but by far, the most popular is the coconut. When it comes to species of palms in the world, there are thousands with more discovered each year. They come from the high mountains like the Andean Wax Palms that live at 13,000 feet above sea level to equatorial rainforest species like those from the Amazon. Desert palms are another large group, but none is quite so close to our Hawaiian hearts as the coconut palm. The coconut palm group is composed of scores of varieties including some dwarf types that should be used more in Hawaii. Not only are they shorter and easy to harvest, they are resistant to a devastating disease referred to as lethal yellowing. Our endemic Loulu Palms (Pritchardia species) are very prone to this disease.

Palms here have few serious diseases at present. Hawaii's palms may be affected by bud rot or stem bleeding disease that is often caused by physical damage such as unsanitary pruning equipment or climbing spikes. Most palms showing yellow or stunted growth have been found to be suffering from lack of fertilizer or water. For example, a recent report came from concerned citizens calling about the dead and dying trees around the island. The trees simply need a balanced fertilizer plus minor elements, applied 3 to 4 times per year, and regular irrigation. Over pruning or removal of too many leaves can also cause their demise by creating a condition called pencil top. The trunks become thinner and are prone to snapping off just below the crown. All these problems are correctable, but if lethal yellowing ever got to Hawaii, there is no practical way of stopping destruction of our islands' palms. Not only would coconut palms be destroyed, but over a hundred species of native and exotic palms would also die.

This disease, originally thought to be exclusive to coconut palms, occurs in the West Indies, Florida, Texas, Mexico and Africa. A similar disease occurs in the Philippines.

Lethal yellowing hit Florida in the middle 1950's. After a number of years it killed most of the coconut palms. Research showed that all varieties of coconuts are susceptible to lethal yellowing. The degree of susceptibility has been the point for developing varieties that are resistant. The dwarf types are least susceptible.

When lethal yellowing hit the mainland of Florida, it was discovered that many other palms were also susceptible to the disease in varying degrees. According to the University of Florida Lethal yellowing Research Station in Fort Lauderdale, hundreds of other palms are susceptible like the Manila Palm, Fishtail Palm, Loulu Palm, Date Palm, Oil Palm and many others.

Mycoplasma like organisms, that occupy a niche between a virus and bacteria, are the cause of lethal yellowing. St. Augustine lawn grass can be a reservoir for the disease and a sap sucking leafhopper appears to be the main vector. At this time neither the disease nor leafhopper have been found in Hawaii. As a matter of precaution we should be planting the disease resistant form wherever possible. As our old coconut palms get too tall to safely prune, plant young dwarf palms to take their place.

Hawaii is fortunate to be far from disease infected regions, but it is vital that we don't introduce this and other plant plagues. It is important to cooperate with the Hawaii and Federal Departments of Agriculture and follow all the rules of inspection. *(Hawaii Tribune Herald)*

AXELUM EYES MORE LIVELIHOOD PROJECTS FOR COCONUT FARMERS

Coconut products manufacturer Axelum Resources Corp. said it plans to establish additional livelihood projects for its farmers, including employable skills training seminars to harness the management acumen of cluster leaders and members.

Axelum also said it has conceptualized various social campaigns that maximize the agricultural potential of its area.

"We are fully committed to initiatives that uphold social welfare, particularly towards our often-neglected farming communities. With this certification, our customers can be assured that our products are backed by a supply chain that strongly adheres to the highest ethical principles, providing a conducive sustainable working environment that is free of exploitative labor and abuse of natural resources. In this respect, Axelum is truly proud to be part of such cause," Romeo I. Chan, the company's chairman and CEO, said.

In 2019, Axelum expanded its sustainability development platform by launching its Fairtrade program, primarily for the benefit of local coconut farmers.

Fairtrade International was founded in 1997 and is a nonprofit, multistakeholder association of 22 member-organizations.

It promotes a global system that connects farmers and workers from developing countries with consumers and businesses around the world to change for the better.

Fairtrade-certified companies undergo rigorous and independent audit screenings based on some guidelines, and compliant with the ISEAL Assurance Code, an international code for sustainability standards.

To date, approximately 1,000 farmers are enrolled in Axelum's Fairtrade program, organized into nine clusters from the municipalities of Medina, Magsaysay, Salay, Talisayan and Gingoog City in Misamis Oriental, Northern Mindanao. In terms of land area, more than 2,300 hectares of organic coconut farms are Fairtrade-certified.

Among the key highlights of the Fairtrade system is the setting of a Fairtrade minimum price, which represents the base amount that producers are paid when selling their products through Fairtrade. In principle, this protects producers when market prices drop.

The Fairtrade premium is an extra sum of money paid on top of the selling price. This additional amount is collected and earmarked to fund cluster-initiated projects.

Axelum said it transacts with a well-known multinational consumer giant for its desiccated coconut products under Fairtrade prices. Based on Fairtrade terms, Axelum allocates a portion from each product sold as Fairtrade Premium, which is then deposited to an independent bank account directly accessible to farmer clusters. *(Business Mirror)*

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL PUBLISHES RESULTS ON VCO STUDY VS. COVID-19

Results of state-funded clinical trials on virgin coconut oil (VCO) in Santa Rosa, Laguna, which showed it was an effective "functional food" to help treat probable and suspect cases of COVID-19, has been published in an international journal. Science Secretary Fortunato dela Peña said the randomized, double-blind, controlled intervention study on VCO by Department of Science and Technology-Food and Food & Nutrition Research Institute, was published on May 25 in the *Journal of Functional Foods*.

Entitled "Virgin coconut oil is effective in lowering Creactive protein levels among suspect and probable cases of COVID-19", the study highlights were: (1) VCO emerged as a health supplement owing to its medium-chain fatty acid contents; (2) VCO is considered as GRAS (generally recognized as safe); (3) Coconut oil and its derivatives have been shown to be safe and effective immunomodulatory agent.; and (4) VCO improves COVID-19 prognosis by normalizing the C-Reactive protein level.

The study evaluated the effects of VCO in the biochemical markers of suspect and probable cases of COVID-19 on a 28-day randomized, double-blind, controlled intervention trial among 63 adults in two isolation facilities in Santa Rosa City, Laguna, Philippines. The participants were randomly assigned to receive either a standardized meal (control) or a standardized meal mixed with a predefined dosage of VCO. Changes in clinical markers were measured at three time points (day 0, 14, and 28), with daily monitoring of COVID-19 symptoms. Participants in the intervention group showed a significant decline in the C-reactive protein level, with the mean CRP level normalized to ≤ 5 mg/dL on the 14th day of the intervention. As an adjunct therapy, meals mixed with VCO was effective fostering faster recovery from COVID-19. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

CABINET SECRETARY NOGRALES DISTRIBUTES VCO IN BULACAN HOSPITALS

To help ease congestion in hospitals in Metro Manila and nearby provinces (NCR Plus), Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles is encouraging the use of virgin coconut oil (VCO) to help treat mild Covid-19 cases. Last month, Nograles, co-chair of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF), led the distribution of VCO to Level 1 hospitals in Bulacan tasked to treat Covid-19 cases with mild symptoms.

The four hospitals namely, Dr. Yanga's Hospital, Inc., Malolos San Vicente Hospital, Mary Immaculate Mater nity and General Hospital, and La Consolacion University General Hospital, treating a total of 46 Covid-19 patients, received VCO from Nograles' office. Three other Level 1 hospitals in Bulacan likewise received VCO supplies. These are Ospital ng Guiguinto, Romel Cruz Hospital, and Guiguinto Polymed Hospital, Inc.

Citing studies conducted by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Nograles said "VCO can help those with Covid-19 recover faster" because of its potential benefits and practically zero side effects. He said individuals with Covid-19 symptoms are advised to take one tablespoon of VCO after each meal for three straight days. If tolerated well, they are then advised to double the dosage from the fourth day onward, until the patient tests negative. Patients may also rub VCO on their nostrils and gargle with VCO to help alleviate symptoms, he added. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

COCONUT-ABACA INTERCROPPING IN REGION VIII

The drive to plant abaca plants under coconut trees has already covered 125 hectares in Eastern Visayas, the Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority (PhilFIDA)

reported on May 19. The intercropping project has significantly expanded this year after a partnership with the local government of Maasin City in Southern Leyte, said PhilFIDA regional director Wilardo Sinahon. At least 100 hectares of coconut farms in Maasin City have been identified for expansion of abaca plantation and will cover the villages of Basak, Canyu-om, Lonoy, and Tigbawan in Maasin City.

The agency launched the coconut-abaca intercropping project on Oct. 15, 2020 through a turnover of abaca planting materials in Hinunangan, Southern Leyte. The project expanded to farms in the towns of Abuyog, Leyte; Catubig, Northern Samar; Macarthur, Leyte; and Burauen, Leyte. "We have seen some farms where coconut and abaca grow together, but these are located in upland and far-flung areas. Also, there has been an intensive promotion of intercropping cacao, coffee, or banana in coconut farms. It's high time to plant abaca under coconut since the fiber is a shade-loving plant," Sinahon said in a phone interview. The project is in partnership with the Philippine Coconut Authority and local government units. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

HIGH COPRA PRICES TO BOOST INCOME OF E. VISAYAS FAMILIES

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) is upbeat that higher copra prices will prevail until the end of this year, improving the income of nearly 400,000 families in the Eastern Visayas region.

Average farm gate price of copra, a major by-product of coconut, rose to PHP30 per kilogram in May from PHP17.68 in the same period last year, according to PCA's price watch data.

The current copra trading price is way better than the PHP11.36 per kilogram recorded two years ago.

PCA regional manager Joel Pilapil said the high demand for coconut from a Sorsogon-based processor has helped in increasing the price of copra, a raw material for the production of premium oils overseas.

"In many parts of Leyte and Southern Leyte, the whole nut buying has been established especially in farms within the national road. Many farmers don't process coconut into copra anymore, thus, reducing the volume of copra," Pilapil said in an interview last week.

The region's major buyer of whole nuts is the Peter Paul Philippine Corp. for its operation of their Sorsogon plant.

The firm has been processing whole nuts into desiccated coconut, virgin coconut oil, coconut water, coconut cream, and coconut milk for export to the United States.

Higher price is also attributed to the rising demand of coconut oil in the global market as more consumers realize the nutritional value of the coco-based oil.

Copra is the dried meat or kernel of the coconut. Premium oil is extracted from copra. It also yields coconut cake after oil extraction, which is mainly used as feed for livestock.

The improving copra price has been benefiting about 400,00 coconut farmers and their families in the region.

PCA estimated that 1.83 million people or nearly half of the 4.4 million population of the region are dependent on coconuts.

The region is the fifth top coconut-producing region in the country with an average copra production of 320,000 metric tons every year. *(Philippine News Agency)*

ODISHA'S COCONUT FARMERS DEMAND MANDIS AND ALLIED INDUSTRIES

Odisha is known for its paddy cultivation, but in the coastal areas coconut is a much-valued

crop. Most farmers in Odisha's Puri district have coconut groves, which is their primary source of income. Coconut is a high-yielding crop with a low risk of loss. So far, farmers have directly dealt with traders. However, they feel the setting up of a coconut market, a government mandi, will largely benefit coconut and related businesses.

Bhakta Bandhu Das, a farmer from Daspurushottam Pur village in Nimapada block of Puri district, owns about 500 coconut trees. "I had over a thousand earlier, but cyclone [Fani, in 2019] caused tremendous destruction. Half my grove was uprooted. Many of us lost coconut trees," 50-year-old Das told Gaon Connection.

"Each year, I harvest between fifteen and twenty thousand coconuts from these five hundred trees," said Das. He gets between Rs 10 and Rs 20 per coconut, selling directly to coconut traders.

"If we have a marketplace [a government mandi] for coconut producers, we will have more business opportunities.

Popular crop on the coast

India has a long coastline of 7,500 kilometres and its coastal areas account for 90 per cent of coconut production, because coconut farming requires sandy or loamy soil. Coconut is also a popular crop in Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara districts in Odisha.

June and July are ideal for planting coconut. The plant needs urea, phosphate and potash to flourish and produce fruit, said Das. Farmers apply fertilisers twice a year — in January-February and November-December. Coconut begins fruiting in three years.

"Coconut farmers suffered huge losses in the aftermath of cyclone Fani," Akshay Kumar from Jagatsinghpur, who is the national convener of Navnirman Kisan Sangathan, a farmers' organisation working in more than 15 districts of Odisha.

Coconut cultivation and trade fall under the unorganised sector. If the industry is regularised, farmers' incomes and quality of life will improve significantly, said Kumar.

Providing support price

Under the Price Support Scheme, the Central Government procures copra in partnership with states. According to data from the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution, 5,089 metric tonnes of copra were purchased from Karnataka and Tamil Nadu during the 2020-21 harvest season. A payout of Rs 524 million on minimum support price benefited 3,961 farmers. *(Gaon Connection)*

COCO TRUST FUND BRINGS HOPE TO ANTIQUE FARMERS

Coconut farmers from this province are optimistic that their lives will improve with the enactment of Republic Act Number 11524 or the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act.

"Our federation is planning to put up a coconut farmers' hub in the central part of Antique where the farmers would be able to consolidate their products and avail of training," said Antique Federation of the Coconut Farmers, Inc. president Trinidad Eiman in an interview.

She said coconut is one agricultural product that could be turned into many useful items such as cooking oil, handicrafts, and coconut husks that they are planning to train more farmers on how to produce these in their hub.

She added that they are planning to make Antique the coconut industry center in the Philippines through the establishment of a seedling farm to encourage more farmers to plant.

Plans had long been there, however, they were not able to implement without funding, she said.

"The Republic Act Number 11524 signed by President (Rodrigo) Duterte is like a dream come true for us coconut farmers," she said.

With this, she said that coconut farmers are encouraged to enroll with the National Coconut Farmers Registry System (NCFRS) to avail of benefits.

Flora Egonio, also an officer of the federation, has planted 30 coconut trees in her half a hectare land.

In February, she earned PHP3,000 from the copra that were taken from the coconut trees.

"If there will be a training for us, we could still make other by-products that could boost our income," she said.

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) in Antique has already registered 25,000 coconut farmers in the province as of June 30 since the law was signed on February 2021.

"The coconut farmers registered with the NCFRS would be recipients of various assistance," said Antique head Rey Gillera in a separate interview.

He said that hopefully starting next year portion of the multi-billion peso trust fund will be allocated for more scholarships and training of children of coconut farmers, insurance for coconut trees, and farm machinery.

"The PCA also plans to issue identification cards which is also a cash card for farmers registered with the NCFRS so that they could directly withdraw their incentives," he said. *(Philippine News Agency)*

DTI: BUSINESS OPTIONS FOR COCO INDUSTRY PLAYERS

To boost the coconut industry in Region 2 (Cagayan Valley), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) sees more than 100 coconut farmers, enterprises, growers, processors, local government units, enthusiasts and potential investors ready for business opportunities in the industry.

Leah Pulido Ocampo, DTI-Region 2 director, said the agency has continued giving out informative and relevant topics introduced by experts from the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), Export Marketing Bureau, Department of Science and Technology and Landbank-Cagayan Lending Center.

One of their activities to boost the coconut industry in the region is conducting free webinars on "Business Opportunities in the Coconut Industry" via Zoom that is simultaneously broadcast through Facebook reaching a wider audience interested in the coconut industry.

"The possibilities and opportunities for coconut both in the local and global scenes are almost endless and Region 2 has the potential to become an active industry player having a vast agricultural land that could serve as expansion areas for coconut production along with suitable agro-climatic conditions," Ocampo said.

She encouraged those already in the industry to level up Cagayan Valley's contribution to the coconut industry value chain.

Dennis Andres, PCA-Region 2 manager, said five years from now, Cagayan Valley could become the leading producer of coconut in Northern Luzon.

"We could be one of the major coconut-producing regions not only in the Luzon area but also a major producer of coconut and coconut by-products in the country," Andres added.

Cagayan Valley comprises the provinces of Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino and the island province of Batanes.

Ocampo noted in one of the webinars they have conducted many were interested in the value-addition of coconut products in relation

to profitability and market potential particularly virgin coconut oil (VCO), coconut flour, coconut sap sugar, coco coir and peat, as well as coco shell and charcoal.

She also said of high interest are the health benefits of some coconut products affirmed by studies particularly VCO products, which supposedly have anti-viral, anti-microbial, antiprotozoal and antifungal characteristics, and are also loaded with antioxidant properties that strengthen the immune system.

Ocampo added these health benefits have resulted in increased market demand for VCO products.

Maureen Pasciolco, owner of Pasciolco Agri Ventures (PAV) based in Quezon province, who has been an inspiration among coconut farmers in the region, shared her humble beginning as an entrepreneur until she became one of the pioneer producers of VCO in 2002.

Pasciolco said PAV started from a small production area and expanded in three locations in Quezon and Batangas with more than 100 direct and indirect jobs already created.

"We were pioneers in virgin coconut oil in 2002 when we started to market VCO as a cold-pressed process or fermentation," she added.

Pasciolco said the PAV market has reached the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Macau, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Malaysia.

"Our success was based on our desire and commitment to continuously innovate and offer quality products by complying with various quality standard certifications and displaying the courage to expand to new markets," she added, quipping, "In coconut, tayo ay aangat."

Pasciolco said she and her husband grew up with their parents as coconut farmers who engaged in buying and selling copra to be able to send them to school.

"As a chemistry graduate, I have made different kinds of innovations to come up with coconut vinegar since 1996. Our coconut jam started in 2000 when it became well known because of its unique and natural taste without any preservatives," she added.

PAV also produces coconut sugar and coconut syrup with by-products like coconut aminos, natural seasoning and balsamic using coconut sap.

"It is here where we have 100 families of farmers working for us while we help them uplift their living conditions and are now able to send their children to school," Pasciolco said.

She added their products are all organic certified, halal and kosher to reach their market here and abroad. *(The Manila Times)*

'UNSHACKLED' PALM-DESTROYING BEETLES COULD SOON INVADE AUSTRALIA

A destructive pest beetle is edging closer to Australia as biological controls fail, destroying home gardens, plantations and biodiversity as they surge through nearby Pacific islands.

University of Queensland researcher Dr Kayvan Etebari has been studying how palm-loving coconut rhinoceros beetles have been accelerating their invasion.

"We thought we'd outsmarted them," Dr Etebari said.

"In the 1970s, scientists from Australia and elsewhere found that coconut rhinoceros beetles could be controlled with a beetle virus from Malaysia.

"This virus stopped the beetle in its tracks and, for the last 50 years or so, it more-or-less stayed put - that is, until now.

"It seems that they are now unshackled from the virus in some places and could be in Australia before we know it."

In the last few years, the pest has spread to many South Pacific islands, including islands in Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, causing severe agricultural and economic damage.

"If they spread to Australia, garden palms would be at risk, along with the country's emerging date industry, coconuts, oil palms, and many other palms, both wild in the forests and ornamental," Dr Etebari said.

UQ's Professor Michael Furlong said the research team investigated the beetle's population genetics and the incidence of the virus in specimens collected in Fiji, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu and the Philippines.

"We found that there have been several new waves of beetle invasions, not only one as we first expected," Professor Furlong said.

"And there are different populations of the beetle that we didn't recognise previously - in the Solomon Islands for example, there are three populations of the beetle, and they are interbreeding."

The beetles all look alike, but the molecular tests show they are different.

"Similar to how scientists spot different strains of COVID-19, we are also detecting variations in the beetle virus," Professor Furlong said.

"This presents us with a complex problem: multiple types of beetles and beetle-controlling virus.

"The next step will be finding out how these virus variations behave in these different beetles, and how this can be used to c ontrol them.

"We know the virus doesn't kill the beetles outright, but probably affects the number of eggs a female lays and changes beetle behaviour, for example how far infected beetles can fly, so we need to explore these important aspects of the interaction too."

Dr Etebari said investing in research and new control methods was vital, not only for Australia's prosperity, but for humanitarian reasons.

"The coconut rhinoceros beetle remains a serious threat to livelihoods across Pacific islands, where the coconut tree remains their 'tree of life', providing essential resources like food, copra, building materials and coastal protection for five million vulnerable people," he said.

"It's imperative that Australian scientists help our neighbouring countries in the Pacific to tackle their emerging pests and diseases.

"And everything we're finding in the Pacific islands may later be critical to managing the beetle here in Australia." *(Eurekalert)*

TRADE NEWS

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

Prices followed a downward path this week, continuing prior week lower close.

In Rotterdam coconut oil market, business remained scarce with trades reported concluded at $1,460-1,550/MT CIF, lower than week-ago paying level at $1,600-1,630/MT CIF. Market started off with easier offers, save for nearby contract, at $1,565-1,750/MT CIF for positions from June/July through to September/October and continued under pressure from weakness in palm oil and soybean oil markets. By week's close, however, prices eventually recovered from the sharp falls seen during the week aided by a rebound in vegetable oils prices. Closing levels though at $1,485-1,638.50/MT CIF were still below opening rates.

The palm kernel oil market was quiet this week with most buyers absent from the scene.

It was traded at $1,350-1,410/MT CIF last week. Market opened with offers at last Friday level at $1,310-1,420/MT CIF for positions from June/July through to September/October. Values stayed lower thereafter though at some points during the week saw levels exceeding opening prices. Market ended in the positive territory at level above opening prices at $1,307.50-1,370/MT CIF.

The price premium of coconut oil over palm kernel oil declined this week in all positions but one, capping two successive weeks of expansions. Average premium this week narrowed to $239.97/MT from week-ago at $254.70. Spreads per position are shown following: May/June $250.75 ($288.75 last week); June/July $299.20 ($269.00); July/August $224.55 ($234.00); August/September $213.50 ($242.75), September/October $211.85 ($239.00).

At the CBOT soya complex, soybean futures extended last week's downward price spiral on beneficial rains, improving crop growing conditions in the US crop belt. News the US government will assist petroleum oil refineries with clean fuel regulations added to market bearishness, especially affecting soybean oil prices, as did fears inflation will curb purchases of US stocks. Market, however, ended the week in the upside on bargain hunting by buyers.

At the palm oil section, market continued bearish tracking weaker soybean oil prices but settled higher at week's end following recovery in soybean oil futures.

Prices of tropical oils for nearest forward shipment tumbled radically this week. Coconut oil price plunged $148.45 from $1,712.00 last week to $1,563.55/MT CIF in the current week; palm kernel oil slumped $104.00 from $1,443.00 to $1,339.00/MT CIF; and palm oil dived $148.50 from $1,131.00 to $982.50/MT CIF. As a result, the price premium of coconut oil over palm kernel oil contracted to $224.55/MT from $269.00 last week but was barely changed over palm oil at $581.05/MT from $581.00 last week. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

MARKET ROUND-UP OF COCONUT OIL

In Rotterdam coconut oil market, dealings were light anew with three parcels reported traded at $1,550 for June/July; $1,500 for July/August; and $1,460/MT CIF for September/October. Market was easier during the week but closed in the positive territory with sellers at $1,638.50 for June/July; $1,566.75 for July/August; $1,532.50 for August/September; and $1,485/MT CIF for September/October. Buyers closed at $1,530 for June/July; $1,490 for July/August; $1,440 for August/September; and $1,420/MT CIF for September/October.

The FOB coconut oil market continued closed for nearly six months now. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

NIGERIA COCONUT MARKET WORTH OVER $6 BILLION

The Minister of State Industry Trade & Investment, Marian Katagum, has advised coconut farmers to harness the global potential market for coconut in the country, which she said is in excess of $6 billion.

Mrs Katagum said this while delivering her keynote address at the 2021 Coconut planting season flag off tagged "Actualizing Coconut Sufficiency in Nigeria", held in Abuja on Tuesday.

She said coconut is a commodity with lots of economic, medicinal and nutritional value and the market for it in Nigeria is huge.

"Unfortunately, the local supply can only meet about 20 per cent of the demand, hence the need to urgently address the supply side constraints," she said.

"The global market for the coconut is more than $6 billion, which means that the opportunities are huge.

"Therefore, as the 18th largest world producer of coconuts, we must work harder to increase our market share, and the best strategy

is to start cultivation of the commodity for improved yield."

Our campaign, "One Family, Three Coconut Trees" is strategic, and you must sustain the vision," Mrs Katagum said.

According to her, Nigeria needs more coconut plantation and industries to support the already existing ones in the country.

"Without doubt, we need more coconut plantations and industries to support the few that are already existing in states like Akwa Ibom, Lagos, Rivers and so on.

"The Nigerian Coconut Industry can be given a boost with more investment, so that it can provide jobs to thousands of unemployed youths, through its numerous value chains," she added.

She stressed that the government is committed to the development of the coconut sub-sector and would work to create effective support systems for the growth of the commodity.

"As a Ministry, we are committed to supporting activities that will help harness the immense benefits of the coconut to the economy, which is why the Ministry nurtured and formed the National Coconut Producers, Processors and Marketers Association of Nigeria (NACOPPMAN).

'This was done to create a value chain for both local and international consumption of the commodity, especially now that the export market is growing appreciably," she said.

At this juncture, I wish to call on the private sector to key into the opportunity of developing the coconut value chain in Nigeria.

"As I said earlier, we are presently producing just 20 per cent of the coconut we consume.

"We cannot continue to import what we can produce locally.

"To achieve this, it is imperative to build the capacity of the National Coconut Producers, Processors and Marketers Association of Nigeria, to scale up their capacity to efficiently manage the coconut business in Nigeria," she said.

Also speaking at the event, the president, National Coconut Producers, Processors and Marketers Association of Nigeria, Nma Okoroji, said the Nigerian coconut industry is 80 per cent untapped with massive importation, whereas the industry has the potential to generate foreign exchange even greater than the current crude oil earnings and boost Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

"Currently, the production output of de-husked nuts in Nigeria is 257,520 metric tonnes which are used in the production of fewer than 1,500 tonnes of coconut oil.

"That is the critical point why the 2021 coconut planting season flag-off is aimed to achieve the actualisation of coconut sufficiency in Nigeria (COSIN) through the establishment of coconut tree planting the establishment of 10,000 square meters of coconut farms in all coconut viable states and 1 family 3 coconut tree initiative," Mr Okoroji said.

According to her, "the largest producers in the world are Indonesia and the Philippines while Tanzania ranks the highest in Africa."

"The coconut industry has an inelastic value chain that transcends health benefits, employment generation for youth and women, family economic empowerment, medical industry, furniture, domestic kits and National income to boost our Gross Domestic Product, the need for a healthy and wealthy living has increased the consciousness of the economic potentials of and the demand is multiplying annually," she added.

"The crop can play a significant role in the economic development of the states of our dear country, Nigeria.

"The good news here remains, Nigeria wakes up to the major coconut producer in Africa and challenges both Indonesia and the Philippines on the global coconut production scale.

"We also cannot continue to import what we can produce locally," she added. *(Premium Times Nigeria)*

COCONUT PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION CALLS FOR SEEDS IMPORT WAIVERS

The National Coconut Producers, Processors and Marketers Association of Nigeria (NACOPPMAN) urged the FG to grant import waivers on coconut import, especially seeds, in a bid to generate N320 trillion for the economy annually.

This was disclosed by Mrs Okoroji Okechukwu, the President of the Association, as the 2021 coconut planting season, flagged off on Tuesday in Abuja.

The 2021 season, themed: 'Actualising Coconut Sufficiency in Nigeria (COSIN): Planting Coconut trees with Economic, Health and Export Potentials' is viewed by stakeholders as a catalyst towards the implantation success of the association's six-year strategic plan of 2021-27, called 'NACOPPMAN's Cosin Project.'

"Therefore, for the actualisation, we request for coconut seedlings import duty waiver for the importation of one million innovative varieties from Malaysia and Indonesia. This is to complement the local varieties in order to improve production for local consumption and export.

NACOPPMAN needs sponsorship for the establishment of 60,000 hectares Coconut plantation in each of the geopolitical zones at a cost of N6 million.

We request for the inclusion of NACCOPMAN in the CBN Anchors Borrower's Programme and support of the government in regards to funding for Research and Development on Coconuts.

Also, we request for the establishment of Processing Hubs in all the geopolitical zones for value addition for exports," Mrs Okoroji said.

Okechukwu added that the actualisation of the project would be beneficial to the nation's economy, including a N320 trillion boost to the economy, and over 100,000 jobs.

Meanwhile, the Minister of State for Industry, Trade and investment, Mariam Katagum, called for more investment in the space, citing that the FG is committed to the growth of the coconut industry in Nigeria.

"As a Ministry, we are committed to supporting activities that will help harness the immense benefits of the coconut to the economy, which is why the ministry nurtured and formed the National Coconut Producers, Processors and Marketers Association of Nigeria (NACOPPMAN)," she said.

"The Coconut is a commodity with lots of economic, medicinal and nutritional value and the market for it in Nigeria is huge. Unfortunately, the local supply can only meet about 20 per cent of the demand, hence the need to urgently address the supply side constraints.

The global market for the coconut is in excess of 6 billion dollars, which means that the opportunities are huge and as the 18th largest world producer of coconuts, we must work harder to increase our market share.

Without doubt, we need more coconut plantations and industries to support the few that are already existing in states such as Akwa Ibom, Lagos, Rivers among others," Katagum added. *(Nairametrics)*

CAKAUDROVE AND BUA COPRA FARMERS CAN RESUME SALE OF COPRA

Copra farmers in Cakaudrove and Bua can resume the sale of raw copra to Fiji Coconut Millers from next week.

Company CEO John Deo said a team would be in Napuka, Saqani and Kubulau routes next Tuesday to buy raw copra.

This purchase transaction was shelved after the mill in Savusavu was partly destroyed by fire causing total damage of $200,000.

"Those farmers who do not have copra dryers have held back supply of raw copra for one week until next Tuesday when we resume buying raw copra," Mr Deo said.

"These are farmers in our Napuka, Saqani and Kubulau routes.

"We have notified our farmers of the fire incident and advised them to try and supply dry copra and whole coconut to the mill." *(The Fiji Times)*

OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

CANADIAN CANOLA OIL EXPORTS RISE

According to a report by Germany's Union for the Promotion of Oil and Protein Plants (UFOP), citing data from Canola Council of Canada, export of canola oil by Canada was higher in 2020 compared to prior year with the US and China as leading destinations but Europe was noted as re-emerging buyer. In absolute value, the country's canola oil exports reached just under 3.4 million MT in the 2020 calendar year which was a 7% increase on the previous year at 3.2 million MT.

Growth in export was fueled by strong demand from China, according to UFOP, with the country's imports surging 26% to 1.1 million MT compared to 872,000 MT in 2019. However, current demand fell short of 2018 levels. Top importer US, however, with purchases amounting to 1.7 million MT, bought a smaller volume than the previous year's 1.8 million MT, according to the report. Other important buyers included Chile, Mexico, and South Korea. With an import volume of 48,200 MT, the European Union (EU) ranked as the sixth most important destination. This followed a period of two years when the EU had not imported any canola oil from Canada, UFOP said. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

MALAYSIA ENTERS MAJOR OIL PALM DEAL WITH SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia will become Malaysia's hub for the import and distribution of palm oil and palm oil-related products into the lucrative Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Middle East and North African (MENA) markets, the Bernama reported on April 30. International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali said the oil-rich kingdom of Saudi Arabia would also increase the import of palm oil and related products from Malaysia.

Malaysia would also look at setting up of palm oil refinery and processing plants in the region, he wrote in his twitter account, highlighting the successful results of his trade and investment mission to Saudi Arabia. Mohamed Azmin, who is also Senior Minister, said the Malaysian delegation he led also had productive meetings with the Savola Group, one of the leading strategic investment holding companies in MENA, with a portfolio of leading brands in the food and retail sectors. Going forward, he said that the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) plans to organize visits by the Savola Group to Malaysia, tentatively during the Malaysia International Halal Showcase (MIHAS) this year.

The mission is part of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry's (MITI) continuous efforts to promote business opportunities and strategic partnerships between Malaysia and the West Asian region. The mission is aimed at keeping the momentum of economic relations between Malaysia and both countries, following the official visit of Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in March. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

OIL PALM ATTRACTS HIGHEST AGRICULTURAL SHARE IN 2015-21 IN INDONESIA'S FDI

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in the agriculture sector between 2015 and March 2021 was dominated by investment in oil palm plantations, the Ministry of Investment / Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) has said. Foreign investment in food crops, plantations, and livestock came from Singapore (53.7 percent) and Malaysia (15.8 percent), Jumina Sinaga, head of the sub-directorate for agribusiness at the ministry, informed during a webinar on 'How foreign investment can advance Indonesian agriculture'.

FDI realization in agriculture during the period reached US$9.5 billion, accounting for around 5.2 percent of the country's total FDI (in Indonesian value). Meanwhile, domestic investment (PMDN) reached Rp173.9 trillion, accounting for 9.1 percent of the total PMDN in Indonesia. "The FDI investment projects in the agricultural sector are mostly in Kalimantan and Sumatra," Sinaga said. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

INDIA MULLS IMPORT TAX CUT ON EDIBLE OIL TO LOWER PRICES

India is considering reducing import taxes on edible oils after cooking oil prices hit record highs last month, two government and two industry officials told Reuters, to reduce food costs in the world's biggest vegetable oil importer. While no decision has yet been made, the tax reduction could lower local prices and boost consumption, giving support to Malaysian palm oil, along with soy and sunflower oil prices, and dampening prices of local oilseeds such as rapeseed, soybean and groundnut.

Domestic soyoil and palm oil prices have more than doubled in the past year, hitting consumers already stung by record fuel prices and reduced incomes amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Data from the Solvent Extractors' Association (SEA) of India showed average landed cost of palm oil at Indian ports was $1,173/MT in April compared to $599 a year ago. SEA suggested, at a meeting with government officials on reducing edible oil prices, that there was no need to cut import taxes. Government can help the poor even without cutting import tax by providing subsidized edible oils.

India meets nearly two-thirds of its edible oil demand through imports, levying a 32.5% tax on palm oil imports, while crude soybean and soyoil are taxed at 35%. It buys palm oil from Indonesia and Malaysia, and soyoil and sunflower oil come from Argentina, Brazil, Ukraine and Russia. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

CARGILL TO BUILD PALM OIL REFINERY IN INDONESIA

US agribusiness giant Cargill Inc said it is building a US$200 million palm oil refinery in the Indonesian province of Lampung, which the company expects to be completed late next year. The new refinery is part of Cargill's plans to fully oversee its palm oil supply chain "from plantation to customer" in order to meet North American and European demand for more sustainable palm oil, the company said.

"This project is a key step for Cargill to increase the availability of sustainably sourced and produced edible oil ingredients for our customers," Robert Aspell, president of Cargill Asia Pacific, said in the statement issued to the media. "This fully integrated supply chain offers our customers assurance that stringent production requirements and the highest product quality are achieved," he said.

Indonesia is the world's top producer of palm oil, which is used in a wide range of consumer products from food to cosmetics, but the versatile edible oil has faced a backlash particularly in some western markets over issues ranging from labour rights to forest clearance. The palm oil industry has also been linked to forest fires in Indonesia, where in 2019 at least 1.6 million hectares of forest and other land

were burned and losses were estimated at $5.2 billion as a choking haze blanketed the region. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

HEALTH NEWS

SURPRISING SIDE EFFECTS OF USING COCONUT OIL, SAYS SCIENCE

Whether you've been looking for vegan alternatives to your favorite animal-based fats or just love adding a touch of tropical flavor to your dishes, odds are you've considered—or tried—incorporating coconut oil into your cooking.

And it's not just coconut oil's trendiness that makes it deserving of a spot on your menu—there's some evidence that this flavorful fat packs an impressive résumé when it comes to your health and wellbeing. Before you prepare your next meal, read on to discover the surprising side effects of using coconut oil, according to science.

It may help you lose weight

If you're eager to shed a few pounds, making coconut oil part of your regular routine may help. A 2015 meta-analysis published in the *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics* found that medium-chain triglycerides (MCTs), a type of fat abundant in coconut oil, were associated with reductions in body weight.

It may help you shed abdominal fat

Losing belly fat is no easy feat, but adding coconut oil to your cooking routine may help you trim down that midsection. According to the aforementioned *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics* study, in addition to weight loss, MCTs are also associated with reductions in waist circumference and total body fat.

It may improve your oral health

Those healthy teeth you've always wanted may be easier to achieve than you think—and coconut oil could be the key.

A 2016 study published in the *Journal of International Society of Preventive & Community Dentistry* found that, among a group of 50 children between ages 8 and 12, swishing with coconut oil was as effective at reducing counts streptococcus mutans, the bacterium most commonly associated with cavities, as chlorhexidine mouthwash. *(Eat This, Not That!)*

COCONUT RECIPE

COCONUT ICE CREAM SANDWICHES WITH SALTY CHOCOLATE SHELL

These chewy brown sugar and coconut cookies, filled with vanilla ice cream and dipped in a salty chocolate shell, are better (and more impressive!) than any store-bought frozen novelty.

Ingredients

Cookies

- ¾ cup (packed; 150 g) light brown sugar
- ½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp. dark rum or vanilla extract
- 1¼ cups (156 g) all-purpose flour
- 1 cup sweetened shredded coconut
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. Diamond Crystal or ½ tsp. Morton kosher salt
- 1 pint vanilla or coconut ice cream

Chocolate Shell

- 2 cups bittersweet chocolate chips
- ¼ cup refined coconut oil
- ½ tsp. Diamond Crystal or ¼ tsp. Morton kosher salt
- Flaky sea salt

Instructions

1. Place racks in upper and lower thirds of oven; preheat to 350°. Beat ¾ cup (packed; 150 g) light brown sugar and ½ cup (1 stick) room-temperature unsalted butter in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment (or a large bowl if using a hand mixer) on medium speed until light and fluffy, about 5 minutes. Scrape sides and bottom of bowl with a rubber spatula and beat again to combine. Add 1 large egg and 1 tsp. dark rum or vanilla extract and beat until combined and fluffy.

2. Whisk 1¼ cups (156 g) all-purpose flour, 1 cup sweetened shredded coconut, 1 tsp. baking soda, and 1 tsp. Diamond Crystal or ½ tsp. Morton kosher salt in a medium bowl to combine.

3. Add dry ingredients to brown sugar mixture all at once and mix on low speed until well combined. Scrape sides and bottom of bowl with spatula and beat again to incorporate.

4. Line 2 rimmed baking sheets with parchment paper. Using cookie scoop, scoop 12 heaping rounds onto prepared baking sheets, spacing about 2" apart. (If you don't have a #40 scoop, make each cookie about 2 Tbsp.)

5. Bake cookies, rotating front to back and top to bottom after 5 minutes, until edges are golden and solid but centers are still a little underbaked, 11–13 minutes.

6. Remove cookies from oven and smack baking sheet hard on counter a couple of times—be firm! This will cause the cookies to collapse in the center and keep them chewy.

7. Let cookies cool on baking sheets, then gently transfer all of the cookies to 1 baking sheet, arranging in a single layer. Chill cookies in the freezer until cold and firm, about 15 minutes.

8. While cookies are chilling, let 1 pint vanilla or coconut ice cream sit on counter at room temperature until pliable (but before it's melted), 10–15 minutes.

9. Scoop a heaping ¼ cup ice cream onto bottoms of 6 cookies. Top with remaining 6 cookies, bottoms facing down. Gently press sandwiches together until ice cream is even and almost at the edge all the way around.

10. Chill ice cream sandwiches in the freezer until firm and set up, at least 10 minutes.

11. Pour 2 cups water into a medium saucepan and set a medium heatproof bowl on top of pan. Bring water to a simmer over medium-high heat.

12. Combine 2 cups bittersweet chocolate chips, ¼ cup refined coconut oil, and ½ tsp. Diamond Crystal or ¼ tsp. Morton kosher salt in bowl and heat, stirring occasionally with a clean spatula, until chips are melted and combined. Remove from heat and keep chocolate shell mixture warm over water. (You can also melt chocolate shell mixture in a microwave-safe bowl in the microwave at medium-high power in 20-second increments.)

13. Remove cookies from freezer and, working one at a time, dip half of each sandwich in chocolate shell. (Store any extra chocolate shell in the refrigerator—it keeps almost indefinitely and can be reheated for ice cream sundaes or as dip for fruit, cookies, and even potato chips.) Place sandwiches back on baking sheet and sprinkle with flaky sea salt as you go. Chill in freezer until set before serving, at least 15 minutes.

    Do ahead: Ice cream sandwiches can be made 1 month ahead. Transfer to an airtight container, stacking with sheets of parchment paper between each layer, and freeze.

(Bon Appétit)

STATISTICS

Table 1. SRI LANKA: Exports of Mattress, Bristle and Twisted Fibers, 2019-2021 (In MT)

Month	Mattress Fiber			Bristle Fiber			Twisted Fiber		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
January	3,123	7,141	4,832	117	127	112	2,784	3,225	3,475
February	3,739	2,812	6,810	175	61	232	3,270	2,164	2,359
March	3,883	3,794	10,169	167	103	135	4,315	1,259	2,125
April	2,989	4,640	5,475	114	68	88	2,809	1,894	1,415
May	4,559	4,947		80	157		2,763	2,366	
June	4,321	6,402		126	99		2,578	2,979	
July	6,289	8,202		104	84		2,952	3,440	
August	5,601	7,129		88	103		2,949	2,814	
September	4,649	6,443		141	115		2,529	2,643	
October	4,112	7,514		100	121		2,317	2,997	
November	4,251	6,355		75	105		2,176	2,605	
December	4,372	6,225		146	87		2,108	2,347	
Total	**51,888**	**71,604**	**27,286**	**1,433**	**1,231**	**567**	**33,550**	**30,733**	**9,374**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

Table 2. SRI LANKA: Monthly Export Prices of Mattress, Bristle and Twisted Fibers, 2019-2021 (US$/MT, FOB Colombo)

Month	Mattress Fiber			Bristle Fiber			Twisted Fiber		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
January	273	244	253	1,633	1,421	1,308	377	317	305
February	267	259	250	1,384	1,240	1,398	369	306	301
March	268	228	251	1,639	1,467	1,263	341	337	359
April	260	244	254	1,549	1,369	1,125	325	273	359
May	259	248		2,040	1,379		321	297	
June	256	244		1,771	1,377		340	313	
July	242	239		1,534	1,586		310	306	
August	259	236		1,538	1,529		307	304	
September	242	235		1,679	1,266		337	329	
October	241	243		1,462	1,450		341	302	
November	231	242		1,347	1,441		325	315	
December	240	249		1,754	1,395		315	336	
Average	**253**	**243**	**252**	**1,611**	**1,410**	**1,274**	**334**	**311**	**331**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

Table 3. SRI LANKA: Exports of Yarn, Twine and Pith, 2019-2021 (In MT)

Month	Coir Yarn			Coir Twine			Fiber Pith		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
January	112	65	115	711	1,000	909	3,698	3,069	4,000
February	114	114	112	635	463	603	2,790	3,326	4,011
March	73	56	117	649	181	682	5,101	2,694	5,569
April	99	38	146	535	97	194	3,052	1,904	3,027
May	138	78		620	461		3,830	3,914	
June	91	83		455	625		3,608	4,367	
July	73	124		920	806		3,280	4,225	
August	56	96		646	722		1,825	2,873	
September	132	113		691	842		2,036	2,758	
October	105	83		812	935		1,751	3,604	
November	125	111		974	647		1,815	2,864	
December	64	32		648	489		2,464	2,928	
Total	**1,181**	**993**	**490**	**8,296**	**7,268**	**2,388**	**35,250**	**38,526**	**16,607**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

Table 4. SRI LANKA: Monthly Export Prices of Yarn, Twine and Pith, 2019-2021 (US$/MT, FOB Colombo)

Month	Coir Yarn			Coir Twine			Fiber Pith		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
January	920	1,025	990	1,078	1,325	1,231	276	227	251
February	1,071	913	797	1,075	1,331	1,263	271	225	328
March	940	881	790	1,039	1,308	1,363	260	241	265
April	987	882	1,022	1,254	1,223	1,216	281	252	259
May	887	819		1,304	1,230		271	252	
June	883	832		1,380	1,326		306	266	
July	1,011	874		1,355	1,353		289	249	
August	829	656		1,390	1,342		258	279	
September	955	678		1,276	1,352		238	259	
October	1,096	713		1,321	1,272		224	238	
November	908	932		1,319	1,318		239	253	
December	1,065	774		1,318	1,296		228	252	
Average	**963**	**832**	**899**	**1,259**	**1,306**	**1,268**	**262**	**249**	**276**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

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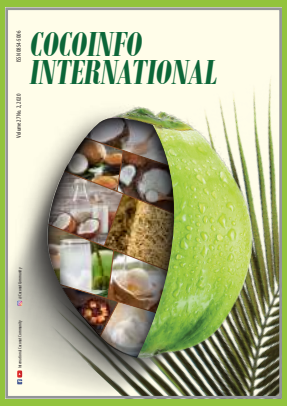

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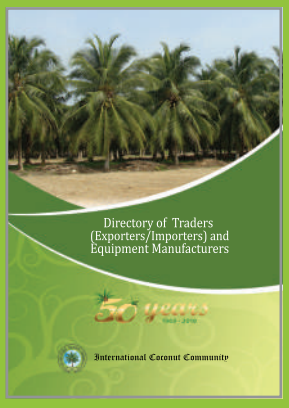

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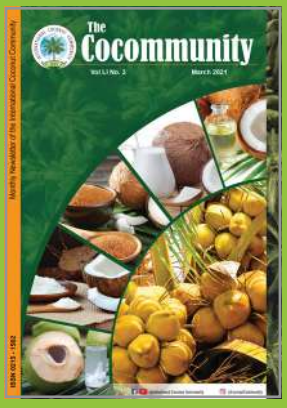

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- SS 304/316/Duplex
- Digital Pressure Gauge
- Pressure upto 1500 bar
- Capacity 5-20000 LPH
- Pneumatic/Hydraulic design
- Stellite/Tungston Carbide Valves & Valve seat

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DESICCATED COCONUT PROCESSING MACHINERY

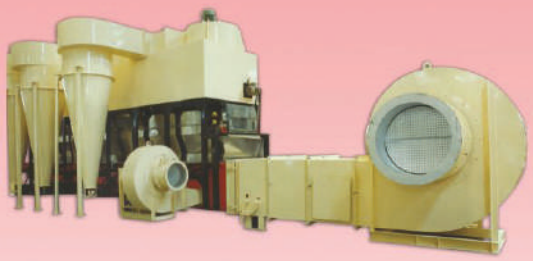
"Over 100 machines in operation worldwide"

BAND DRYER (APRON/CONTINUOS TRAY DRYER)

for Desiccated Coconut Granules, Chips & Toasted D/C
Output Capacity : 1000 to 2500 Kgs/hr.
Two Stage and Three Stage Dryers.
Apron width : 2640mm and 3250mm

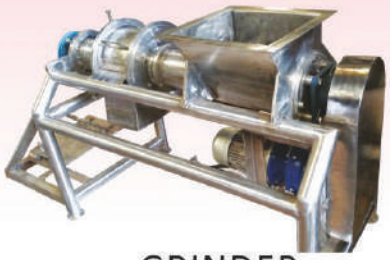
COMBINATION DRYER

for Desiccated Coconut Granules, Chips,
Toasted D/C & Parings.
Output Capacity : 300 to 1000 Kgs/hr.



VIBRATORY FLUID BED DRYER

for Desiccated Coconut Granules & Parings.
Output Capacity : 300 to 1000 Kgs/hr.

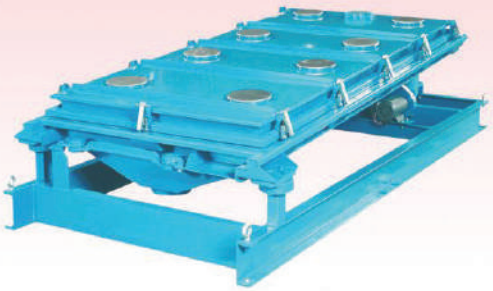


GRINDER

Output Capacity:
1000Kgs/hr.

BLANCHER

Output Capacity :
1000 to 4000 Kgs/hr.



NOVATEX SCREENER/GRADER

Output Capacity :
1000 to 1500 Kgs/hr.

DESHELLING MAHINE
Output Capacity :
250 to 300 nuts/hr.

DEHUSKING MACHINE
Output Capacity :
1200 nuts/hr.

OIL EXPELLER

RADIATOR
Extruded Fins or
Plate Fins Type

STAINLESS STEEL PERFORATED APRON TRAYS
Width: 2640mm & 3250mm

STAINLESS STEEL CHAIN

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Established in 1969, under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Commision for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP), the ICC is an independent regional intergovernmental organization which consist of twenty member countries and accounts for 85-90% of the world production of coconut . The ICC member countries are: the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Phillipines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, Tonga, Vanuatu, and Vietnam.

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