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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPEAKS ...

"Policy and Financial support for Developing Coconut Value Added Products"

Policies affect not only individual agricultural enterprises but also the whole sector either locally or internationally. Policy support by the government positively affects infrastructure (road, export port, warehouse), technology, cooperative structuring, and innovation. Policy support for ensuring coconut as a high priority program in the national development plan can promote the success of increasing coconut production, thereby ensure enough raw- and supporting materials for coconut industries. In some countries such as India, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines, the governments authorize particular institutions to support all program and activities from the planning program to the implementation of the coconut sector development, which include but are not limited to research and development, human resources development, policy, certification, the upstream to the downstream activities, trade, and promotion. Coconut development policy in India is mandated to the Coconut Development Board (CDB), which is under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Coconut Development Authority (CDA) and Coconut Cultivation Board (CCB) in Sri Lanka functions under the Ministry of plantation industry; Philippines Coconut Authority (PCA) in the Philippines works under the office of the President in 2014, and then it is placed under the Department of Agriculture in 2018.

The role of researchers in research institutes, research canters, agencies, and universities is very crucial in generating innovative products, technologies, policies, and regulations. Policy and financial supports to their research agenda for generating new products, new technologies or new policies are needed for industry development. Based on annual reports by ICC member countries, 10-50% of existing coconut palms have reached the senile age of 60 years and are showing a declining level of productivity to as low as 40% compared to younger palms. Without a structured effort in the replanting of senile palms, there will be an inevitable decline in production.

Policy support to encourage joint ventures promotes local and foreign investments, and Public-Private Partnership, tax incentives, tariffs, machinery and equipment importation, and product export are needed. Government regulation policy to regulate financial incentives and access to credit assistance especially for MSMEs to the replanting senile palm program is important. Access to funding is essential for the development of agribusiness. Countries creating a favorable financial environment tend to have high-performing and competitive agricultural businesses. In addition to the formal regulations, voluntary agreements are also important to encourage policy implementation. Government can encourage the private sector in replanting senile palms with good quality and elite planting materials through their respective CSR programs, so generating desirable social impacts. Financial support should also include professional guidance on producing good quality of products, packaging, branding, certification, and marketing.

DR. JELFINA C. ALOUW
Executive Director

PREVAILING MARKET PRICES OF SELECTED COCONUT PRODUCTS AND OILS

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

COPRA: The price of copra in Indonesia was US$933/MT in July 2021, which was higher than previous month's price. Compared to the same month of last year the price was US$ 380/MT higher.

In the domestic market of the Philippines (Manila), the price decreased by US$ 43/MT from US$967/MT to US$924/MT. The price was US$332/MT higher compared to the price of US$592/MT in July 2020.

COCONUT OIL: The average price of coconut oil in Europe (C.I.F. Rotterdam) for July 2021 was decreased from US$1,631/MT in June 2021 to 1,578/MT in July 2021. This price was higher by 44% when compared to the price in July 2020 at US$886/MT.

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

The FOB price of coconut oil in Indonesia in July 2021 scaled up by US$18/MT compared to the previous month from US$1,478/MT to US$1,496/MT. July 2021 price was US$663/MT higher than the price of the same month of 2020 which was US$833/MT.

COPRA MEAL: The average domestic price of the commodity in the Philippines at selling points was quoted at US$234/MT. The price was US$28/MT lower compared to the previous month and was US$3/MT higher than the last year price for the same month.

The average domestic price of copra meal in Indonesia was US$297/MT which was higher than previous month price. The price was US$86/MT higher than last year's price in the same month.

DESICCATED COCONUT: The average price of desiccated coconut (DC) FOB USA in July 2021 was US$2,521/MT, which was same as 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 July 2021 was US$2,476/MT or US$271/MT lower than in June 2021. Meanwhile, the price of DC in the domestic market of Philippines in July 2021 was US$2,039/MT, was the same as price in June 2021, also in June 2020. Indonesian price of DC in July 2021 was the same price in June 2020, and was higher compared to last year's price of US$1,913/MT.

COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL: In Philippines, the average price of the commodity in July 2021 was US$500/MT which was lower than previous month's price. Meanwhile, Indonesia's charcoal price decreased from US$601/MT in June 2021 to US$568/MT in July 2021. Moreover, compared to last year's price, the price was higher by US$56/MT. Sri Lankan's price in July 2021 was US$535/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$575/MT-US$875/MT for bristle. The Indonesian price for mixed raw fiber was US$330/MT in July 2021 which was higher US$45/MT than last year's price.

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

Products/Country	2021 Jul	2021 Jun	2020 Jul	2021 (Annual Ave.)
Dehusked Coconut				
Philippines (Domestic)	199	222	174	235
Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use)	182	207	147	212
Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use)	283	289	275	296
India (Domestic Kerala)	525	558	469	623
Copra				
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	924	967	592	932
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	933	916	553	877
Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo)	1,532	1,914	1,332	1,690
India (Dom. Kochi)	1,423	1,589	1,350	1,715
Coconut Oil				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	1,578	1,631	886	1,553
Philippines (Domestic)	n.q.	n.q.	836	n.q.
Indonesia (Domestic)	1,496	1,478	833	1,422
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	3,077	3,488	2,456	3,057
India (Domestic, Kerala)	2,328	2,502	2,158	2,691
Desiccated Coconut				
Philippines FOB (US), Seller	2,521	2,521	2,190	2,523
Philippines (Domestic)	2,039	2,039	2,039	2,039
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	2,476	2,747	2,466	2,812
Indonesia (FOB)	2,450	2,450	1,913	2,331
India (Domestic)	2,017	n.q.	1,773	2,302
Copra Meal Exp. Pel.				
Philippines (Domestic)	234	262	231	230
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	279	347	n.q.	329
Indonesia (Domestic)	297	296	211	290
Coconut Shell Charcoal				
Philippines (Domestic), Buyer	500	517	376	493
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	535	516	398	524
Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer	568	601	512	592
India (Domestic)	558	n.q.	431	571
Coir Fibre				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre)	143	143	110	123
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	575	576	673	596
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	875	876	781	849
Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre)	330	330	285	320
Other Oil				
Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	1,271	1,419	704	1,414
Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	1,057	1,017	659	1,050
Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill)	1,468	1,420	821	1,266

Exchange Rate

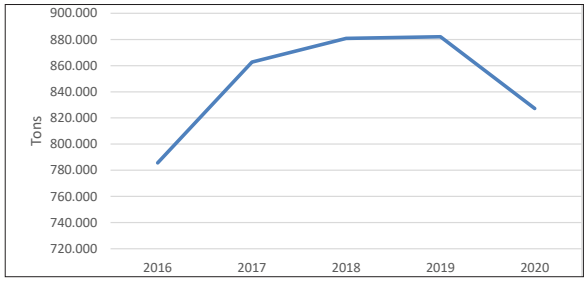
Jul 31, '21 1 US$ = P49.99 or Rp14,460 or India Rs74.38 or SL Rs199.27

1 Euro = US$1.19 *n.q. = no quote*

MARKET REVIEW OF ACTIVATED CARBON

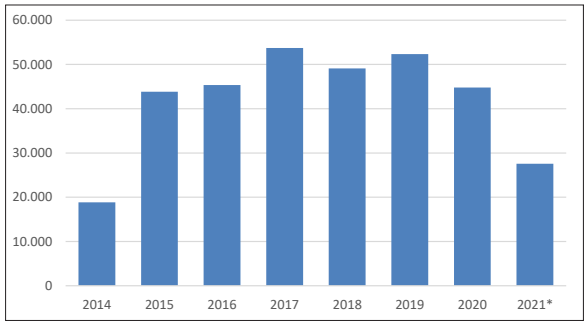
As expected, global demand of activated carbon in 2020 declined amid the pandemic. In the period of January-December 2020, global imports of activated carbon were 0.83 million tons which was lower by 6.2% compared to the 2019's volume. USA was the largest importing country for the product followed Japan and Germany. USA imported 83.8 thousand tons which lowered by 12.5% as opposed to the volume a year earlier. US import of activated carbon derived from coconut shell charcoal shrank as well. US Census Bureau recorded import of the product was only 44,787 MT or dropped by 14% as compared to previous year's volume. Meanwhile, Japan imports of activated carbon fell by 11.5% to 77,053 tons against the previous year's volume of 87,041 tons meaning that Japan experienced lower demand of the product for two consecutive years.

Figure 1. Global Imports of Activated Carbon (MT), 2016-2020



Source: ITC

Figure 2. US Import of Coconut Shell Charcoal based Activated Carbon, 2014-2021 (MT)

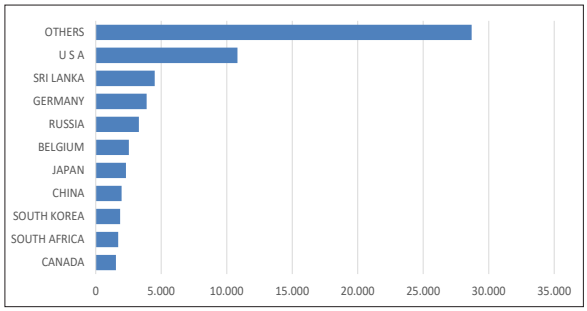


**) January - July 2021, Source: US Census Bureau*

Amid a weak demand, export of activated carbon from several main producing countries are increasing.

In the period of January-December 2020, India dispatched 108,742 MT of activated carbon to the global market creating export earnings of US$188.31 million. The export leveled up by 6.67% as opposed to previous year's volume. In the period of January-June 2021, India exported 63,129 MT of activated carbon valued US$119.2 million which was 33.5% higher than export volume a year earlier. USA was still a main destination for activated carbon from India. USA absorbed more than 17% of Indian activated carbon during January-June 2021. Other major destinations of activated carbon from India were Sri Lanka, Germany, Russia, Belgium, Japan, and China.

Figure 3. Export Destinations of Activated Carbon from India, January-June 2021 (MT)

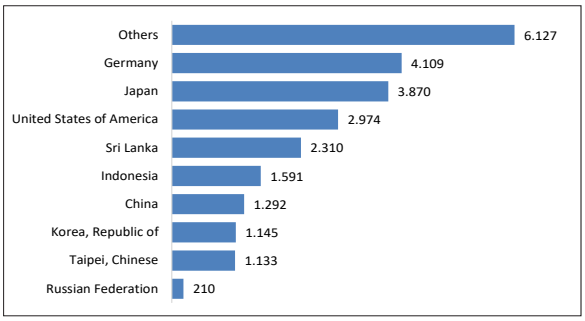


Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India

Another major exporting country which is experiencing an increase in export volume of activated carbon is Philippines. Export volume of the commodity from the Philippines during January-December 2020 was 76,979 MT. The export volume declined by 1.5% as opposed to the previous year's volume. During January-April 2021, export of the product reached 24,761 MT which was lower than the previous year's volume of 25,730 MT. During the period, major importing countries of the product from Philippines were Germany, Japan, USA, Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

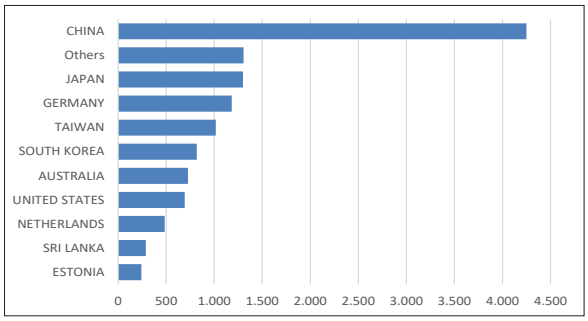
Amid the pandemic, export volume of coconut shell based activated carbon from Sri Lanka showed an increasing trend. During the period of January-December 2020, Sri Lanka shipped 45,306 MT activated carbon to various countries. The volume was 7% higher than the volume in the previous year.

Figure 4. Export Destinations of Activated Carbon from Philippines, January-April 2021 (MT)



Source: UCAP

Figure 5. Export Destinations of Activated Carbon from Indonesia, January-June 2021 (MT)



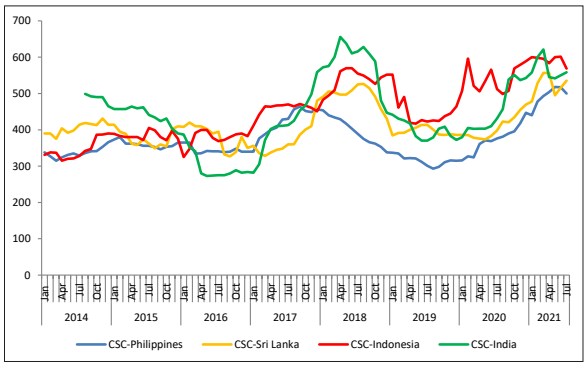
Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia

The export seems to keep increasing in 2021. During January-July 2021, export of coconut shell based activated carbon from Sri Lanka recorded a growth of 19.6% from 25,023 MT to 29,938 MT. USA is still major destination for coconut shell based activated carbon from Sri Lanka. USA received more than 30% of export of Sri Lankan activated carbon during the period. Other major destinations include China, Japan, UK, and Turkey.

Meanwhile, as expected, export of activated carbon from Indonesia declined in 2020. During January-December 2020, export of activated carbon from Indonesia was 27,614 MT. The export went down by 3.8% compared to previous year's volume for the same period. It created export earnings of US$39.96 million. In the first half of 2021, Indonesia shipped 12,304 MT of activated carbon to global market creating export earnings of US$18.2 million. China, Japan, Germany, Taiwan and South Korea were the main destination of activated carbon from Indonesia. They received 4,250 MT, 1,229 MT, 1,181 MT, 1,017 MT, and 818 MT respectively accounting for 70% of total export.

Price of coconut shell charcoal in the first half of 2021 maintained its high level. During January-July 2021, monthly average of the price was USD593/MT in Indonesia which was 10% higher than a year earlier. In the same period, the price average in Philippines was 41% higher as opposed to the previous year. Similarly, average price of the charcoal increased in Sri Lanka by 37% compared to the same period in 2020. The price is expected to keep in high level attributed a tight supply due to lower coconut production in those countries.

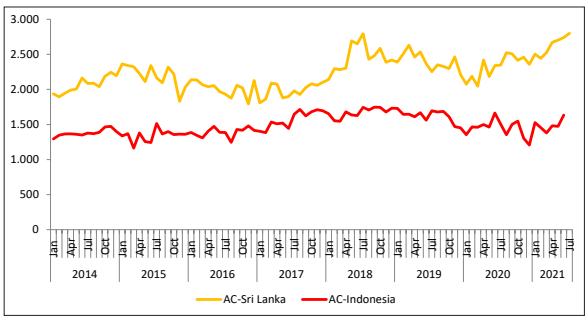
Figure 6. Price of Coconut Shell Charcoal US$/MT (FOB) in the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and India January 2014 – July 2021



Source: ICC database

Meanwhile, price of activated carbon started to level up as in the first half of 2021. In Sri Lanka, price of activated carbon in December 2020 was US$2,358/MT and reached US$2,739 in June 2021. Likewise, price of activated carbon increased in Indonesia from US$1,207/MT in December 2020 to US$1,634/MT in June 2021. Price of coconut shell charcoal based activated carbon is expected to keep strengthening as price of coconut shell charcoal is appreciated.

Figure 7. Export Price of Activated Carbon US$/MT in Sri Lanka and Indonesia, January 2014 - July 2021



Source: ICC database

COMMUNITY NEWS

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON QUALITY STANDARDS OF COCONUT PRODUCTS

ICC Secretariat conducted the International Workshop on Quality Standard of Coconut Products virtually on 13rd-14th of July 2021. The main objective of organizing this workshop is to review and compile the national quality standard of various coconut products in ICC member countries and harmonize these national standards and come up with a Regional/ICC standards. The growing local and global market demand have forced the coconut Industries to optimize coconut added-value, thereby reducing poverty and stimulating economic growth. Increasing quality standards is essential to increase product quality, meet customer's expectations, avoid food adulteration, protect consumer's health, enhance global acceptability, increase export revenue, and make an important contribution to long-term revenue and profitability, and maintain higher prices. There were 46 participants including technical experts representatives of ICC member countries, private companies, research institutes like ICAR-CPCRI, CCRI, IAARD, ICAPRD, and industrial products certification institutes.

Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director, ICC, delivered the welcome remarks and rationale of the Workshop. She mentioned that one of the core missions of ICC, in line with the goals of the United Nation for sustainable development, is to help member countries in promoting product diversification and maintaining high product quality standards acceptable to consumers. Recognizing the importance of harmonized quality standards for coconut products, ICC conducted a two-day workshop to help member countries upgrade product quality, access a new market, adapt and comply with international standards. The in-depth technical expert discussions, idea exchanges, and data validation by competent experts would be conducted after the workshop. The standards might be updated regularly and all the standards will be referred to as formal standards released by countries and international standards.

Mr. Farid Amir, Director General, APEC, and Alternate NLO, Indonesia, on behalf of Mr. Djatmiko Bris Witjaksono, S.E., MSIE, Director General International Trade Organization and NLO, Indonesia, delivered the opening remarks and officially open the workshop. He appreciated ICC for hosting this workshop, and mentioned that as the 'Tree of life', coconut's role is not just as a food, but also used for religious, cultural, and handicraft purposes. The domestic and export of coconut products, and the world's demand is also increasing. He also emphasized the need to harmonize the coconut quality standard. The workshop will generate a quality standard for coconut products that can be used as a benchmark in general agreement and global trade. The Ministry of Trade, Government of Indonesia is committed to limiting the trade barrier of coconut products.

The first day of the workshop had two sessions. The first session began with ***'Understanding the Importance of Quality Standard'***. The first speaker, **Dr. Wahyu Purbowasito**, Director of Standards Development for Agro, Chemistry, Health and Halal Secretariat of the Codex Contact Point, The National Standardization Agency of Indonesia, presented ***'Codex and International Standard for Coconut Products'***. Codex Alimentarius is a collection of international food standards, codes of practice, and guidelines to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade. Codex has 188 member countries, the Secretariat is at the FAO Headquarters, Rome. He explained the overview of Codex Alimentarius Commission, elaboration of Codex standards, and Codex Standards related to coconut products. Codex having standards for three coconut products.

Dr. C. Anandharamakrishnan, Director, Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology (IIFPT), Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Government of India, presented ***"Glycemic Index of Coconut and Its Products"***,

in which he explained the changing consumer preferences, health effects of coconut, glycemic index metabolism process, factors influencing the GI of food products, stomach model, GI of coconut-based products, and the GI of different sweeteners, where the coconut sugar is relatively low.

The second session started with ***"Country Presentations: National & International Quality Standards for different Coconut Products"***. **Mr. Benjamin A. Madrigal (Jr.)**, Administrator, Philippine Coconut Authority, Philippines, presented definitions, concepts and principles, legislations & issuances related to standards for agriculture and products, the status of the regulatory system in the Philippines, issues, challenges, and way ahead. The Philippines Nasional Standards (PNS) for food and industrial products was developed by the National Standards Body (NSB) and Standards Development Organizations (SDOs). There are 17 existing PNS for Coconut and Coconut Products. He commended ICC for coming up with this workshop.

Mrs. Deepthi S. Nair, Deputy Director (Marketing), Coconut Development Board of India presented the different standardizations bodies of India, namely Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Indian Standards by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Agricultural Produce Grading and Marketing Act (AGMARK), National Standards for Organic Production (NSO), and Ecomark, with their standards, regulations, roles, activities, and processes. Having these standard bodies, India has the most standards for coconut products (19 products). In her presentation, she explained the comparison of 22 product standards according to BIS, FSSAI, ICC, and CODEX.

Mr. Nguyen Hoang Linh, Deputy Director-General, Directorate for Standards, Metrology, and Quality, Ministry of Science and Technology, Vietnam, presented general information about coconut in the world and Vietnam, system of national standards for coconut and coconut products of Vietnam, Orientation and solutions to complete the national standard system. Vietnam has 6 coconut product standards.

Dr. Chandi Yalegama, Head Coconut Processing Division, Coconut Research Institute, Sri Lanka presented national quality standards for different coconut products followed in Sri Lanka, in which she described the standards and regulations, the regulatory body of coconut products in Sri Lanka, standards specifications, specifications for different products, such as coconut oil, VCO, coconut oil, desiccated coconut, aqueous coconut products, oil cakes, coconut meal, coconut flour, and shell charcoal. Sri Lanka has developed standards for 16 coconut products.

Mrs. Supattra Lertwattanakiat, Senior Fruit Expert, Horticulture Research Institute, Thailand presented the Standards developed in Thailand for the different coconut products, and the agencies involved. Thailand has developed so far standards for 9 coconut products.

Mrs. Cheryl Lewis, Technical Officer, Specifications Development Quality Control & Certification, Barbados, National Standards Institution, presented ***"Quality Standard for Coconut Products developed by CARICOM"***. She mentioned that Regional Technical Sub Committee (RTSC) comprises representatives of nine member states: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, Suriname, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Guyana, and Trinidad & Tobago. The CARICOM Specification is now developing the standard for packaged natural coconut water and which is in the draft stage. The Code of Practice contains standards from upstream to downstream, from harvesting, transportation, storage, processing, packaging, QC, to waste disposal.

Dr. Aida Hamimi Ibrahim, Deputy Director, Enzyme and Fermentation Program, Science and Food Technology Research Centre, Malaysia Agriculture Research and Development Institute (MARDI), Malaysia, presented national and international quality standards for different coconut products followed in Malaysia, in

which she explained Malaysia coconut scenario, coconut varieties in Malaysia, regulation and Malaysian standard related to coconut. Malaysia has developed standards for 6 coconut products.

The second-day workshop was mainly focused on discussion for ***"Clarification and Harmonization of International Quality Standard for Coconut Products"***, The main speaker was **Dr. Fabian M. Dayrit**, Professor, Department of Chemistry, Ateneo de Manila University and Chair, ICC SACH. He presented ***CNO, RBD oil, and VCO quality standards to be considered for human consumption***.

The other categories of products discussed were coconut milk, coconut cream, desiccated coconut, coconut powder, coconut sugar & coconut honey, chaired by **Mr. Benjamin A. Madrigal (Jr)**, Administrator, Philippines Coconut Authority; coconut coir-based products, chaired by **Mrs. Sumy Sebastian**, Senior Research Officer, CCRI, Coir Board of India; coconut water, & nata de coco, chaired **Dr. Prima Luna**, Researcher Centre for Agricultural Post Harvest Research & Development, IAARD, Indonesia; coconut shell charcoal & activated carbon, chaired by **Dr. K. Muralidharan**, Head, Social Science Division CPCRI, India.

There was an in-depth discussion on the criteria to be followed on finalizing the international standards and the queries raised by the participants were addressed by the speakers in the discussion session.

The closing statement was delivered by **Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw**, Executive Director, ICC. She addressed that in developing ICC's standard, it is necessary to focus on several key aspects such as the identity of the products, their unique characteristics, and potential contaminants. It is necessary to conduct regular training on food safety to increase compliance to the standard, form a quality standard committee whose main responsibility is to provide technical and policy advice and work on harmonizing the coconut product quality standards.

This workshop was just the beginning of the step taken by ICC to update and harmonize quality standards. In the next phase, the group of experts shall discuss the specific topic in forum group discussion for final validation and approval. She appreciated the distinguished speakers and the participants for their contributions. The two-day workshop was moderated by Ms. Mridula Kottekate, Assistant Director, ICC. *(ICC News)*

PH GOVERNMENT SET UP COCONUT LEVY ASSET REGISTRY

The government has set up the Coco Levy Asset Registry to monitor the status of the assets acquired through the multibillion-peso coconut levy fund pursuant to Republic Act No. 11524, the Department of Finance said last week. RA 11524 created the Trust Fund Management Committee (TFMC) to oversee the utilization and management of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund (CFITF) and mandated it to draft the implementing rules and regulations (IRR).

The TFMC eyes the asset registry to serve as the re- pository of information and records of coconut levy assets. Based on the IRR, the Bureau of the Treasury, as TFMC secretariat, is required to establish the Coco Levy Asset Registry.

The registry is one of the innovations introduced by the government to ensure that the management of the CFITF is "equipped with checks and balances." The registry will contain separate records for both cash and non-cash coco levy assets while further classifying them into those already declared with finality to belong to the government and those continuing to be subject of litigation. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

AMENDMENT IN COCONUT DEVELOPMENT BOARD SET TO PROSPER COCONUT FARMERS

The Union Cabinet, approved the proposal of the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and

Farmers Welfare to make the post of Chairman, Coconut Development Board, a Non-Executive one. It also decided to increase the number of members from four to six, one from Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat each. The decision is set to benefit the coconut growers at large.

Coconut Development Board Act, 1979

The Coconut Development Board Act, 1979 was introduced to provide for the development of coconut industry and matters connected therewith. The Act extends to the whole of India.

Under the Act, the Coconut Development Board (CDB) was established on January 12, 1981 under section 4. The Board is a body corporate, and has the power to acquire, hold and dispose off property in its name.

Among the members of the Board is a Chairman. According to the Union Cabinet's decision, the post of the Chairman will now be a non-executive chairman. Further, the appointed non-executive chairman shall have field knowledge of agriculture.

The purpose of the Board is to promote the development of the coconut industry, and to adopt measures that particularly help the small coconut farmers become participants and beneficiaries in the development of the coconut industry. Further, the Board through various schemes, shall also adopt measures to improve production, productivity, marketing, enhance global competition, export and involve in the promotion of health benefit of coconuts.

Coconut cultivation in India

India is one of the largest producers of coconut in the world. Coconut or cocos nucifera or 'kalpavriksha' is a popular fruit plant cultivated in India. Further, it can be used in a variety of ways.

Coconut oil is used in cooking and for health care, the green coconut water has nutritional value, its roots in several cultures for the treatment of diarrhea and stomach pain, its husk fiber can be used for carpet making, or as a fertilizer for plants. The stalk and leaves of the coconut tree are also useful in construction works. Thus, every part of a coconut tree can be used in some or the other way.

The coconut palm is grown under varying climatic and soil conditions. The tropical plant requires an ideal balance of temperature and humidity for proper growth. The coconut palm grows well up to an elevation of 600 m above mean sea level. It might need irrigation in places with inadequate rainfall. It also requires plenty of sunlight for proper growth.

Coconut is mostly found in the coastal belt of the tropics where sandy and red sandy loam soils are predominant. However, the cultivation of coconut has slowly extended to inland areas, even to the hill tops, having varied soil conditions. It grows well in almost all types of soils including sandy, laterite, swampy, alluvial, black and saline soils, but requires good drainage system.

In India, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are the major coconut producing states, accounting for more than 90% of the area and production. However, with the adoption of scientific technologies in coconut cultivation has let to four-fold increase in yield.

Import/export

India is leading in the global coconut production and productivity. India ranks third in area and first in production of coconut in the world. As per the latest statistics available (2018-19), the annual coconut production in India is 23.90 billion nuts from an area of 2.15 million hectare with an average productivity of 9,897 nuts/hectare.

Coconut contributes about Rs. 27,900 crore to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In the year 2016-17, coconut products worth of Rs. 2,084 crore were exported.

Coconut production has seen a significant increase in the country. During the period 2013 -15, coconut production was 42,104 million nuts whereas in 2015-17, it was 44,405 million nuts.

The export value of coconut products has increased from Rs. 3017.30 crore during 2011-14 to Rs. 4846.36 crore, which is 60.62% more. From 2016, India started exporting coconut oil to Malaysia, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka, the countries from where it imported earlier. Also, for the first time, desiccated coconut is being exported to the US and Europe in large quantities from India.

Coconut industry and livelihood

Ten million people in India depend on coconut for their livelihood either directly or indirectly. Further, the training programs conducted at the Farmers Training Centre, provide opportunity to more farmers to consider coconut cultivation.

In addition to this, an increase in coconut production increases the scope of employment for people through the production of various coconut based products like coconut chips, coconut milk, coconut sugar, coconut water, tender coconut water, coconut honey, coconut jaggery, coconut milkshake, coconut snacks, virgin coconut oil, coconut natural cream, more nee cookies and other products. *(News On AIR)*

COCONUT INDUSTRY ROADMAP TO SERVE AS GUIDE FOR TRUST FUND

The Coconut Farmers and Industry Roadmap (Coco-FIRM) will serve as the basis for the development plan to be carried out under Republic Act (RA) No. 11524 or the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act, the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) said.

PCA Administrator Benjamin R. Madrigal, Jr. said in a mobile phone interview that Coco-FIRM points to the general direction of the action needed to improve the coconut industry and improve the lives of coconut farmers.

"Coco-FIRM will serve as the backbone of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP). Meanwhile, the CFIDP will complete the details and the parameters for evaluation, reporting and monitoring, and allocation under the Trust Fund," Mr. Madrigal said.

"Compared to Coco-FIRM, CFIDP will also focus on the roles of the various implementing agencies as provided in the law," he added.

According to Mr. Madrigal, the roadmap has seven thematic areas such as the promotion of coconut farmers' welfare and social protection; empowerment of coconut farmers' groups; increasing and sustaining coconut production programs; and the creation of hubs for coconut products.

He added that Coco-FIRM also aims to enhance the global competitiveness of traditional and non-traditional coconut products, expand trade and marketing, conduct innovative research and development, and improve institutional policy.

RA 11524, signed by President Rodrigo R. Duterte on Feb. 26, provides for the drafting of the CFIDP to serve as guide in deploying investment from the trust fund, which was funded by taxes collected from coconut farmers during the Marcos administration.

Under the law, the Bureau of the Treasury will transfer P10 billion to the trust fund in the first year, followed by another P10 billion in the second year, P15 billion in the third year, P15 billion in the fourth year, and P25 billion in the fifth year.

In a separate statement, Agriculture Secretary William D. Dar said the PCA is the first DA agency to have completed a commodity industry roadmap.

Mr. Dar added that the law allows for the modernization and improvement of the coconut industry, with assured funding of P75 billion over the next five years.

"We consider (the law) a 'game-changer' that will help transform the lives of 2.5 million coconut farmers and their families by turning low productivity into higher gains," Mr. Dar said.

According to the PCA, the Philippines is the top exporter of coconut products, generating average export revenue of P91.4 billion between 2014 and 2018. *(Business World)*

LAGOS STATE IS SEEKING PRIVATE SECTOR SUPPORT TO INCREASE COCONUT VALUE CHAIN

Lagos State is seeking private sector support to increase the value of coconut value chain from the present N76 billion to N350 billion yearly (€160 mln to €735 mln). One of the objectives of the coconut value chain development plan is to have ten million active and productive coconut trees for sustainable supply of raw materials to industries.

According to Lagos State Commissioner for Agriculture, Abisola Olusanya Olusanya, the state was determined to advance the dream of a competitive industry to meet rising demand for coconut and its derivatives. She spoke at a forum organised by the Lagos Ministry Agriculture in collaboration with Lagos State Coconut Development Authority (LASCODA). Its theme was "Addressing the Bottlenecks in the coconut value chain to ensure sustainable development in a 21st Century economy."

She noted that the tremendous demand for coconuts and its by-products, such as coconut water and coconut oil is a clear opportunity for the state. To achieve this, she said the government was seeking to collaborate with private growers to boost the supply of coconuts for the industry. *(Fresh Plaza)*

COCONUT SHELL PROJECT UNDER WAY

The National Conservation Commission (NCC) and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) are teaming up to turn coconut shells into a valuable product.

CARDI's representative to Barbados, Ansari Hosein, said the coconut had tremendous economic potential and Barbadians were only scratching the surface when it came to developing products from it.

He said the nut was used to make brooms, medicine, rope, mouthwash, furniture, oils, milk, flour, soaps, cosmetics and craft in addition to its water, which is widely popular in Barbados.

Hosein said NCC and CARDI were utilising the material to create a value-added product. *(Nation News)*

FLOCKING TO COCONUT STALLS TO STAY HYDRATED

Penangites are flocking to coconut stalls amid the heatwave to quench their thirst and to stay hydrated post-vaccination.

Writer Shan Jee Ling, 38, said she needed a thirst quencher since the weather had been extremely hot lately.

"It rained this morning but did not make a difference. It is still humid. I am not a big fan of coconut water but do realise its benefits, especially on a hot day.

"I drank coconut water three days in a row after receiving my second dose of the Covid-19 vaccine. I felt dehydrated after the second dose and the coconut water helped with my fatigue," she said when met at a popular coconut stall here.

Baker Neoh Yong Seng, 75, said it had been three weeks since his first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine but he still felt dehydrated.

"It might be coupled with the hot weather but I have been feeling lethargic and the only pick-me-up that works is coconut water.

"I walk over from my house every day to get a packet in the morning," he said.

Lim Seong Kee, who has been selling coconut water at his shop along Island Glades, said business has picked up lately.

"There has been a 50% hike in sales and there is not enough supply to meet the demand. We used to order 200 to 300 coconuts a day but now we have to double the supply.

"Our suppliers from Selangor and Perak cannot meet the demand so we have to get coconuts from others as well," he said.

Lim said most of the time, they had to turn away customers in the evening as they were done for the day. Coconut supplier K. Manoharan, who gets his coconuts from Perak, said he could not meet the demand as it had almost doubled.

He said he supplies to around 20 to 30 shops in Penang.

"I bring in about 1,000 to 1,200 coconuts a day but lately they say it is not enough.

"I cannot meet their demand as there are not enough coconuts to go around," he said, adding that the increase in demand was due to the pandemic and people wanting to drink coconut water after their vaccination.

Manoharan said his family business had been running for generations and this was the first time demand reached this high.

"There have been times when there was a high demand for coconut water but it has never been this high," he said. *(The Star)*

SLUMP IN DEMAND, PEST ATTACK DENT COCONUT FARMERS' INCOME

Slump in demand owing to the sluggish market conditions in the wake of coronavirus pandemic, curfew restrictions and pest attack have made a dent on the income of coconut farmers in Vizianagaram district. Coconut farming is a major source of livelihood for the farmers from Pusapatirega, Bhogapuram and other mandals in the district.

At present, coconut farming is being done in 15,000 acres in the district and farmers need to invest around ₹30,000 per acre to harvest the crop worth ₹90, 000 a year. However, the restrictions imposed in the wake of coronavirus pandemic has put a dent in their income with the drop in demand and rate per coconut. Farmers who used to sell coconut at ₹17 a piece are getting ₹12 to ₹15 and a well-grown coconuts is available at ₹10. They could not send coconut to markets elsewhere in the State from April to June due to restriction on transport. Even as the curfew was relaxed in July, the farmers say the demand is yet to pick up.

With the closure of temples, and eateries that used to buy coconut in bulk for making chutney, demand has seen a downward spiral, affecting the income of farmers. Further, the pest attack has worsened the situation.

"Apart from marketing of the produce, pest problems are causing a tension to farmers. Whitefly, an invasive pest, is damaging coconut trees quickly, despite taking steps to control it. We have requested the Horticulture Department to take the necessary steps," says Mongam Srinivasa Rao, president of Vizianagaram Coconut Societies' Federation.

The horticulture officials have been touring in Pusapatirega, Bhogapuram and other mandals to know the grievances of farmers. They are expected to submit a report on the steps to be taken to control the pest problem to the government soon. *(The Hindu)*

NIGERIAN COMPANIES USE CHARCOAL SUBSTITUTES TO REDUCE DEFORESTATION

Some Nigerian companies are using coconut and palm shells to make charcoal briquettes in

an effort to slow ongoing deforestation. Nigeria banned charcoal exports after a World Bank report showed the country lost nearly half its forest cover in just a decade.

Nothing goes to waste at the coconut processing facility started by Emeka Ugwueje 10 years ago outside Abuja.

"We began thinking inward to say, 'OK, let our waste become the necessary energy to make fire' and this is where we have come," Ugwueje said.

The shells burn for about an hour before turning from brown to a carbon-rich black derivative. They are cooled, ground and later manually molded into briquettes. But Ugwueje said there's a plan to scale up mechanically.

"We intend to introduce several types of machines. Among them is the molder, the cutter, and the drying system - a dehydrator that will bring these briquettes into a more solid form," Ugweuje said.

Major environmental repercussions

Ugwueje's company, SFK Coconut, which makes products made from coconut, is one of many in Nigeria using coconut briquettes as fuel in place of wood charcoal.

Experts said Nigeria's huge charcoal market causes major environmental repercussions. Charcoal from here is mostly exported to Europe and the United States.

A 2017 World Bank Report showed Nigeria lost nearly half of its forest cover between 2007 and 2017 as a result of the charcoal trade. The report also predicted Nigeria's forests could be completely gone by 2047.

Political will is missing

Conservationist David Michael Terungwa, executive director of the Global Initiative for Food Security and Ecosystem Preservation, said a lack of compliance with Nigeria's charcoal export ban is to blame for continued deforestation. He also cites a lack of political will to address the problem.

"I think the issue is compliance and compliance monitoring, and enforcement by the regulatory agency," Terungwa said.

He was referring to Nigeria's National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency.

For years, Nigerian authorities have been encouraging tree planting to replace decimated forests.

But experts say in the absence of adequate monitoring systems, Nigerians must make a conscious effort to use other alternatives to tree-derived charcoal for fuel. *(VOA News)*

INDONESIANS TURN TO HEALTHY DRINKS AND FOOD AS COVID-19 RAGES, BUT AUTHORITIES WARN OF OVERCONSUMPTION

From sterilised milk to green coconuts, Indonesians have been stocking up on healthy drinks, foods and spices as the COVID-19 caseload rose sharply.

Messages claiming that these are effective in preventing and treating COVID-19 have proliferated on text messaging platforms and social media, resulting in high demand and soaring prices for some of them.

Experts interviewed have expressed concern over the potential side effects of overconsuming these food and drinks, as well as people possibly becoming complacent in observing health protocols as they believe that they are protected.

"People have been getting the wrong information about these goods with some claiming that they can cure COVID-19 or at least

prevent people from getting infected or remedy some symptoms," said Dr Siti Nadia Tarmizi, the Indonesian Health Ministry's Director for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control.

"There have been no clinical trials showing that they are effective in preventing let alone curing COVID-19."

Mdm Tarmizi said the Health Ministry has repeatedly warned the public against hoarding these goods, but it appears that the message had fallen on deaf ears for some people.

Surge in Demand

Over the past few weeks, several videos showing Indonesians jostling with each other to stock up on a particular brand of cow milk went viral.

The phenomenon appeared to have resulted from unverified information that the particular brand of sterilised milk could boost antibodies, which will in turn prevent COVID-19 infection.

With the sudden surge in demand, some resellers were said to have marked up prices by up to five times.

"It is hard to get my hands on the Bear Brand milk these days, which is why I tried to buy some, every chance I get," said housewife Merry Sihombing.

"I am told that the milk is good for you. I am not quite convinced that it will stop my family from contracting COVID-19 but there is no harm in taking extra precaution."

The milk's producer Nestle has since assured the public that there is no need to stockpile the product and promised to ensure continuous supply to keep prices steady.

Currently, retail price for the milk has stabilised at around 12,000 rupiah (US$0.83) per can. Before, it sold for around 9,000 rupiah.

The same occurred with green coconut, a shell-less, meatless variety of the fruit.

"Since last week, people have been buying green coconut, sometimes four or five at the same time," said coconut seller Jarot, who like many Indonesians goes with one name.

"It's hard to find green coconuts at wholesalers or at the market. I have searched everywhere and all I can get are a few small ones barely bigger than my fist. It is in such high demand that coconut farm owners are harvesting the fruit before it is fully grown. Even then, people buy them."

Mr Jarot said he normally sells fully grown green coconuts for 12,000 rupiah each. Today, they can fetch 30,000 rupiah each. "Even the small ones go for 15,000 each," he said. *(Channel News Asia)*

PRESIDENT LAUNCHES 'DORIN DORATA KAPRUKA' NATIONAL PROGRAM TO PLANT 4 MILLION COCONUT SAPLINGS

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa inaugurated the 'Dorin Dorata Kapruka' National Program to plant 4 million coconut saplings at the Weliketiya Estate owned by the Chilaw Plantation Company in Bujjampola, Dankotuwa.

The program is expected to increase the annual coconut harvest from 2800 million nuts to 3600 million nuts, according to the President's Media Division.

To achieve this goal, the Ministry of Plantation, the State Ministry of State Ministry of Coconut, Kitul, Palmyra and Rubber Product Promotion and Allied Industrial Production and Export Diversification and the Coconut Cultivation Board are jointly organizing the "Door to Door Kapruka" National Program to plant 4 million coconut saplings islandwide.

For a long time, Sri Lanka's name was at the forefront of the international market for tea,

coconut and rubber. The "Vision of Prosperity" policy statement focused on the promotion of coconut cultivation and related products, gaining that space in the future as well, President's Media Division said.

It is expected to achieve the target of planting 4 million saplings in the coming year, by giving one million coconut saplings for Samurdhi recipients and two million under subsidy while one million can be purchased and cultivated by anyone who wishes to join the program.

The President planted a coconut sapling at the Weliketiya Estate to mark its inauguration. Ministers and MPs also joined the President in planting coconut saplings.

In parallel to the national program, coconut saplings were planted and distributed throughout the island by all Ministries.

The President observed a barren paddy field land cultivated with coconut using organic manure.

The President also observed demonstrations of Organic Fertilizer Production Methods, Machinery, Soil Rehabilitation, Irrigation, Intercropping, Model Seed Coconut Nursery, Coconut Cultivation Diseases and Pest Clinics and Kapruka Society Members' Exhibitions aimed at enhancing the productivity of existing coconut lands.

The President then visited the Lunuwila Coconut Research Institute and observed demonstrations on preparation of coconut products and coconut milk products.

The President also symbolically distributed subsidies and agricultural equipment to 15 beneficiaries at a ceremony organized at the Coconut Research Institute premises in parallel to the program.

Jude Perera, Chairman, Chilaw Plantation Company, handed over to the President to credit the General Treasury with 10 million rupees earned by his company by 2020.

Minister Ramesh Pathirana, State Ministers Arundika Fernando, Sanath Nishantha, Priyankara Jayaratne, Members of Parliament Ashoka Priyantha, Chinthaka Mayadunne, Secretaries to Ministries and officials of line agencies were also present at the occasion. *(Colombo Page)*

RIDING ON COCONUT SHELLS: ACTIVATED CARBON INSERTS MADE FROM SAWDUST AND COCONUT SHELLS COULD TRANSFORM YOUR BIKE

Motorcycle firms have dabbled with the idea of air suspension for decades, but now a British firm have developed a technology that breathes new life into the idea.

Air suspension, which dispenses with the usual coil springs in the forks or rear shock and relies instead on the compressibility of air, has seen several revivals in the past. In recent years air forks were standard on the 2013-2016 Honda CRF450R and several of its rivals, but the tech has appeared sporadically on bikes for more than a century, going right back to 1909 when Associated Springs Limited (ASL) started building pneumatically-sprung bikes.

In theory, using compressed air as a spring is a great idea. It means you can add or remove pressure from the system via a tyre-style Schrader valve using a simple hand pump, letting you adjust the stiffness and allowing easy compensation for changes in load. But the idea has failed to catch on in a big way for bikes, largely because air springs get exponentially stiffer as the suspension compresses – so settings that work for the initial part of the suspension stroke rapidly become too firm.

To get a gentler progression of stiffness through the suspension's range of travel, the conventional solution would be to use a larger

air chamber, but that is impractical in the confines of a bike.

But Carbon Air's TruTune inserts can mimic that behaviour without an increase in the physical size of the suspension parts. Made from activated carbon (created from the aforementioned coconut shells and sawdust), they allow air molecules to be 'stored' as pressure rises, giving the same effect as a larger air chamber.

Activated carbon contains a huge number of tiny holes called micropores that give it a vast surface area, and it draws air molecules onto this surface as the air pressure increases, effectively storing it as a film on the surface.

Called adsorption (not absorption), this process gives the effect of reducing the amount of air in the shock's chamber as the pressure rises, creating a gentler increase in stiffness through the suspension's stroke.

As the fork or shock extends again, the reverse happens – a process called desorption, returning the air from the activated carbon to the chamber as the pressure decreases. The inserts can be used in the positive or negative air chambers to tailor the strength of the effect.

Until recently Carbon Air's system was under an exclusivity deal with Audi, who have used it on A6 and A7 cars since 2017, but now that has come to an end and opened up the possibility of using the tech on motorcycles.

John Coakley, Chief Technology Officer of Carbon Air, said: "After much testing and talks with manufacturers, we're ready to bring our TruTune technology to market.

The way the material works is complicated, but applying it to motorbikes is very simple, and the results are transformational. Motorcycle riders will notice a dramatic difference in their ride without losing that 'soft off the top' feel.

"Our technology is already proven in the highly demanding automotive industry after being fitted to thousands of current-generation Audi cars. We can't wait for riders around the world to experience how our activated carbon can seemingly bend the laws of physics." *(Motorcycle News)*

COCONUT GROWERS IN THENI EXPRESS SATISFACTION OVER GOVERNMENT'S PRICE SUPPORT SCHEME

District Collector K. V. Muralidharan has appealed to coconut growers in the district to register their names with relevant information such as Aadhaar card, bank account and chitta adangal of the land with the Agricultural Marketing Committee authorities.

Speaking to reporters, the Collector said that 2,400 metric tons has been fixed as the target for procurement of milling copra and Ball copra varieties from farmers.

The district had grown coconuts in 22,500 hectares and close to 3,600 lakh coconuts would be harvested. With good rainfall, the crop coverage area had enhanced this season, Mr. Muralidharan said.

Volatile prices

With heavy arrivals of coconut in the markets, the government, to protect the farmers' interest, had introduced a Price Support Scheme. Under this scheme, the regulated market would procure the produce at a price fixed by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED). Depending on the quality and other aspects, the NAFED had fixed ₹103.35 per kg for Milling copra variety and ₹106 per kg for Ball copra.

Welcoming the scheme, farmers from Chinnamanur, Cumbum and Uthamapalayam and other towns have expressed satisfaction as they were apprehensive about the huge arrivals of coconuts, and as a sequel, the falling

prices. The NAFED had marginally increased the rates from last year, which would discourage the farmers from going to private merchants through middlemen.

The government's initiative to procure at a fair price would encourage more farmers to take to agriculture and the information technology used to sell their produce to buyers in different parts of the country had come as a big motivation. By following the SOP, the Collector appealed to the farmers to participate in the online trading with physical distancing norms in view of the pandemic, the farmers added. *(The Hindu)*

COCONUT SELLERS BANK ON HOPE FOR SURVIVAL

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis, some Lautoka youths remain optimistic and continue selling green coconut juice by the roadside.

While they used to earn $50 before the second wave struck, they say $20 is better than returning home with nothing at all.

With hope for survival Irami Namataga, Anasa Masi, Jeke Daunivucu and Aisake Natago are familiar faces along Navutu Village.

They have been selling coconuts at $2 each for the past seven years.

These four youths are content that no matter how little the income earned is put forward to get food on the table for their families.

They have also recently gotten into selling mangoes at $5 for a plastic bag.

Many criticize the work they do but it has not dampened their spirits.

Mr Daunivucu said: "This is what we do to get some form of income."

He said the boys were surviving on hope for survival. *(Fiji Sun)*

ACID TEST FOR CITY AS TENDER COCONUT IS IN SHORT SUPPLY

If you are thirsty to the core or want to get relief from excessive body heat and wondering why you are unable to find your favourite tender coconut water by the roadside, blame it on short supply as all the tender coconut produced in the Mysuru-Mandya-Channapatna belt are being sent to other places and Mysuru is receiving only a part of the stocks.

The usual tender coconut vending places in the city are not dotted with vendors ready to chop the most desired and the healthy nut with a green pile of stocks either in the goods autos or on the ground. At most of the places you only find discarded and rotting coconut shells.

Even if you manage to find a vendor, he will ask you to pay Rs. 40 or even Rs. 50 per nut. Mysuru gets its share of coconuts from villages around the city like Hullahalli, Kadakola, Srirampura, Jayapura, Nagawala and even from Mandya, Maddur, K.R. Pet and Channapatna. But since the last one month, the nuts are in short supply and whatever is produced is being sent to Bengaluru and parts of North Karnataka.

Looks like people have been downing tender coconut down their throats to the maximum after the second wave of the pandemic. The usual spots of tender coconuts like Krishnaraja Boulevard, Agrahara, Chamundipuram, Ballal Circle, near Crawford Hall, Chamarajapuram Railway Bridge, Jockey Quarters, Yadavagiri Circle, Vontikoppal Circle, Mathrumandali Circle have a few vendors but not to their maximum.

Higher the bargain

Some vendors say that the coconut farm owners are bargaining for higher prices. "The demand is more from every region and as such, the farm owners are drifting away to areas

where they can make profit. If we want to build stocks, we too must be ready to cough up more money. But if we pay more, naturally we have to pass it on to customers and they refuse to pay more," said Rangaswamy, a vendor.

While Maddur and Hunsur are the major suppliers of tender coconuts to Bengaluru, now the nuts are taken from Mysuru belt also and added to the problem is that coconut trees are drying up and dying, drastically cutting production. Mysuru district has 23,000 hectares of coconut farms but there is no dedicated market for either tender coconut or the fully grown nut.

Though there is enough demand for tender coconuts from everywhere, there are many reasons for the lack of supply to the demand. Chiefly, because of the lack of water, the yields have dropped. The coconut trees are being affected by a variety of diseases because of which they are dying off.

Almost 100 to 150 tender coconuts are sold by Dheeraj near Maharaja's College Grounds. Sometimes, these numbers may rise or fall. But on most days, there is a good sale.

Profit margins decline

"But now the supply is not enough. The profit margin has decreased as I pay Rs. 24 per nut and the farms sell them at Rs. 18. Other expenses include plucking the nuts from the tree and I have to pay Rs. 2 per nut and transportation cost to Mysuru is Rs. 2 per nut. I have to sell it at Rs. 30 and even if I increase it by Rs. 5, people go away frowning," he said.

Vendor Thimmanna at Ballal Circle said that there are a few wholesale merchants who take trucks and pluckers to homes of estate owners and they offer Rs. 5 more than what the Rs. 18 we offer per nut. "Owners prefer such deals as there is no risk for them and even the wholesale merchants make a profit by selling the same for Rs. 30. If we buy from them, we have to sell it at Rs. 35 or Rs. 40. But who will buy it for Rs. 40," he asked.

A tender coconut market will be established at APMC premises in Bandipalya soon and a decision has already been taken in this regard, said APMC member Anand. The dedicated market will help the growers get their produce to the yard so that they can directly sell to t he vendors.

The building and 2-acre land that had been handed over to APMC State Unit in Bandipalya premises have been withdrawn and the same land will be used to set up a tender coconut market, he added. *(Star of Mysore)*

COCONUT STAKEHOLDERS TASK RESEARCH INSTITUTES TO DEVELOP IMPROVED VARIETIES

Stakeholders in the coconut value chain in Lagos State called on the Nigeria Institute for Oil-Palm Research (NIFOR) and other research institutes across the country to conduct continuous research and development on improved varieties of coconut with lesser gestation periods.

They made the call as part of the 19- point resolution at the end of one-day Coconut Value Chain Stakeholders Forum themed: "Addressing the Bottlenecks in the Coconut Value Chain to ensure Sustainable Development in a 21st Century Economy," organised by the Lagos State Ministry Agriculture in collaboration with Lagos State Coconut Development Authority (LASCODA) and held at the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Conference and Exhibition Centre.

The stakeholders discussed several issues relating to unleashing the potentials of the coconut value chain, which include low production, old plantation, among others.

Other resolutions as presented by the State Commissioner for Agriculture, Ms Abisola Olusanya, include the need to encourage intercropping with other arable crops such as pineapple, cotton, maize, soya beans to ensure

quick returns and the need to rebrand coconut in order to attract youths to the Value Chain.

"Provide an enabling environment for Public-Private Partnership with the private sector and other individuals; Encourage planting of coconut tree in our homes and environment and Establishment of tissue culture lab for growing viable planting materials.

"Collaboration between NIFOR and LASCODA in providing planting materials; trade issues and land issues can be facilitated by the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment and partners and Increase sensitization on the health, economic and environmental benefits of coconut," she said.

The stakeholders also called for a strong partnership with the Nigeria Agribusiness and Agro-Industry Development Initiative for the development of the Value Chain; increased daily consumption of coconut and the setting up of a committee for the replacement of old coconut palms.

They also urged families with land to allocate their lands through an MOU for the production of coconut; called on the Lagos State University Research Institute to work with NIFOR on research in the production of Coconut as well as the identification of key entry points of coconut into the country.

Besides, the stakeholders also called for a closed-door meeting with the Nigerian Customs Service and other security agencies to proffer a sustainable solution to the challenges of border transportation.

"To also conduct a baseline study of the entire value chain to understand the operations within the Coconut Industry to ensure ease of doing business; Synergy among MDAs in the Coconut Value Chain Development.

"Rehabilitation of the Coastal line through a partnership with the private sector and establishment of a standard operating procedure on the importation of coconut," the communiqué reads.

Earlier, the Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture, Mr Hakeem Adeniji, said the state government was ready to encourage commercialization of coconut for both local and export markets, even as he reiterated the commitment of the state government to support coconut farmers, processors, marketers, haulage operators, producers among others on food security, job and wealth creation and tourism.

"Coconut grows naturally along the coastal terrain and cultivated in about 92 countries of the world, including India, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri-Lanka and Nigeria.

"Seventy per cent of the total production from Nigeria is produced in Lagos State and ranks Nigeria 19th in the World Coconut producing countries.

"In addition, close to 80 per cent of the coconut value chain activities, especially in the area of supply of improved seedlings to commercial coconut growers in other 26 coconut producing states of Nigeria is currently being driven from and by Lagos State.

"The state is naturally blessed with a vast Coconut Belt embedded with an abundance of Coconut resources and it has comparative advantages over other crops in the country at large.

"It has about 3million trees with an annual production of 200million husked nuts while about 20,000 small scale farming families derive their livelihood from it and the number increases daily," Adeniji said.

Speaking further, Adeniji disclosed that the United Nations Food Agriculture Organisation had said that there was an annual 20per cent increase in coconut production in Nigeria, as well as, increase in global demand for coconut products by 500per cent within the last decade,

declaring that the state government had been involved in the rehabilitation of the coconut Belt and production of improved seedlings. *(Nigerian Tribune)*

CHINA'S FIRST COCONUT YOGHURT FIRM HIGHLIGHTS TMALL LAUNCH

China's first plant-based coconut yoghurt brand Yeyo has highlighted the importance of novelty, premiumisation and brand building in capturing the holy grail of middle-class consumers in the country after successfully launching its first flagship store on Tmall.

Christiana Zhu, Co-Founder and CEO of Marvelous Food, the firm behind Yeyo explained the Tmall flagship store is particularly important as it is a key opportunity for brand building, which is crucial when it comes to capturing the attention of rising middle class consumers. "The plant-based market in China is right on the tip of a wave and there is massive potential due to the rising middle class and the (advent of) COVID-19, where people want to eat healthier," said Zhu.

Yeyo's coconut yoghurt parfaits come in peach crunch and strawberry chocolate, yoghurts in two fixed flavors (pure, coconut nectar) and a variety of other limited-edition flavors that change weekly. The yoghurts retail for CNY28 ($4.38) for 150 ml pack. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

ROXAS AND CO. TO INCREASE OUTPUT OF COCONUT PROCESSING PLANT

Roxas Sigma Agriventures, Inc. (RSAI), subsidiary of Roxas and Co., Inc. (RCI) is set to boost production from its integrated coconut processing plant after securing a Ph100 million loan from the Development Bank of the Philippines, RCI disclosed this week. RCI president Edgar Arcos said the loan is for the working capital for the rest of this year of the processing plant located in the town of Tupi, South Cotabato.

"The company expects a sharp production rebound in the second half of 2021 as demand for its coconut cream, coconut milk, coconut water concentrate, and virgin coconut oil continues to rise," Mr. Arcos said. RSAI is pushing the first phase of its expansion program to meet stronger demand from international business-to-business customers in North America, Europe, and Asia-Pacific. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

TRADE NEWS

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

Lower values prevailed this week after steady to firmer opening levels, notably for tropical oils.

Coconut oil in Rotterdam market remained lightly traded during the week. Business reported were confined to nearby positions and concluded at $1,520-1,587.50/MT CIF, within last week traded price range at $1,455-1,825/MT. Market opened with firmer quotes for nearby positions while steady for forward deliveries or last quarter 2021. Levels stood at $1,510-1,655/MT CIF for positions from July/August through to December/January 2022; high-end value being nearby. Shortly thereafter prices came down and subsequently moved for the most part sideways tracking other vegetable oils. Reports of improved copra deliveries at origin mills and widened price premium visa-vis rival palm kernel oil held back expected gains at the close amid recoveries in other markets. Market closed at $1,500-1,590/MT CIF.

The palm kernel oil market was likewise lightly traded this week at $1,235-1,245/MT CIF, higher than week-ago at $1,170-1,195/MT CIF. Opening levels were firmer at $1,220-1,255/MT CIF for positions from July/August through to November/December; high-end being nearby. Prices tracked higher for nearby positions while skidding for deferred deliveries but at the close values firmed up across the board, topping respective opening rates at $1,230-1,280/MT CIF.

The price premium of coconut oil over palm kernel oil contracted this week except in the nearby position. Spreads stayed mostly below $300 and averaged $312.19/MT, appreciably declining from week-ago at $387.25. Price premiums per position are detailed following: June/July no data ($703 last week); July/August $401.25 ($356); August/September $290.13 ($326), September/October $294.00 ($309.50); October/November $293.00 ($310.50); November/December $293.00 ($318.65); December/January 2022 $301.75 (no data).

At the CBOT soya complex, soybean futures trailed mostly lower this week. Pressures came from fears the Covid-19 pandemic will affect demand, and from USDA report showing lower-than-estimated foreign sales. On the other hand, weather concerns briefly helped lift the market earlier in the week. Forecasts called for above-normal temperatures in crop growing areas in the US.

At the palm oil section, market was easier on slack demand. Cargo surveyors reported Malaysian palm oil export dropped in July by 7.9% from prior month at 863,000 MT. Besides, weaker Malaysian currency and reduced output failed to buoy the market. By weekend, however, market bounced back amid pandemic-related labor shortages in the country which can curb output.

Prices of tropical oils for nearest forward shipment showed mixed trends from week-ago with palm kernel oil an only gainer, advancing another $3.88 to $1,251.88/MT CIF from $1,248.00 week-ago. Coconut oil shed $62.00 at $1,542/MT CIF from week-ago at $1,604 and palm oil lost $71.25 at $1,153.75/MT CIF from $1,225. Thus, the price premium of coconut oil contracted to $290.12/MT from $356.00 against palm kernel but widened to $388.25/MT CIF from $379/MT against palm oil. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

MARKET ROUND-UP OF COCONUT OIL

In Rotterdam, trading continued slow with turnovers reported done at $1,570, $1,587.50 for July/August; and $1,520/MT CIF for August/September; other positions were quiet. Market closed with sellers offering $1,590 for July/August; $1,540 for August/September; $1,520 for September/October; $1,510 for October/November; $1,500 for November/December and December/January 2022; and $1,510/MT CIF for January/February 2022. Buyers at close asked for August/September $1,500; September/October $1,440; October/November $1,435; November/December $1,430; and December/January 2022 $1,430MT CIF; no bids for other positions.

FOB coconut oil market remained closed. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

114.3 TONS OF COCONUT FIBER FROM CENTRAL SULAWESI, INDONESIA, ENTERS CHINA MARKET

As a form of contribution to the National Economic Recovery (PEN), Pantoloan Customs and Excise has realized the Export Push activity which was initiated by Customs and Excise centrally in the Central Sulawesi region. This time, the commodity in the form of coconut fiber or coconut fiber from Central Sulawesi Province managed to penetrate the Chinese market.

In the last two weeks, 2 (two) companies at once, namely PT. Mahligai Indo Coco Fiber and CV. Asia Dampal realized these export activities. This export is also the first export activity of the two companies.

The Head of the Public Relations Section, Sudiro, said that this Export Push activity remains a priority for Customs and Excise in the context of National Economic Recovery. Even though in the midst of the ongoing PPKM period and system disturbances that have occurred in the last few days, this can be seen from the efforts of the officers in overcoming the ongoing disturbances by continuing to communicate and coordinate matters related to the CEISA service system with the Directorate of IKC, DJBC Head Office.

"Customs will continue to serve and supervise during the PPKM period. Our priority also remains to make the acceleration of the National Economic Recovery run well. Pantoloan Customs and Excise continues to be committed and shows a positive contribution in providing maximum service," said Sudiro

Through these maximum efforts, the Export Service Note (NPE) was successfully issued through the CEISA system. The total net weight of exported commodities is 114.3 tons or each company, namely PT. Mahligai Indo Coco Fiber weighing 79.2 tons and CV. Asia Dampal weighs 35.1 tons of coconut fiber. *(beacukai.bisnis.com)*

ACTIVATED CARBON EXPORTS BOOST COCONUT PRODUCT SHIPMENTS

The high price of activated carbon and its increased sourcing, especially by the US, has helped India's coconut product exports to touch ₹2,295 crore during the 2020-21 fiscal, against ₹1,762 crore in the previous fiscal.

Activated carbon made up 65 per cent of the export basket, and garnered a revenue of ₹1,514 crore, with 1,13,536 tonnes being shipped. In comparison, during 2019-20, exports were at 1,03,071 tonnes valued at ₹1,184 crore.

The US alone accounts for ₹295 crore of exports, followed by Germany, China, Russia and Korea.

India has now emerged a major player in the activated carbon market, overtaking countries such as Indonesia, Philippines and Sri Lanka. A decade ago, the export of activated carbon stood at 20,000 tonne. However, the gradual improvement in infrastructure and increased production, especially in the South, has helped India emerge a top destination, officials at the Coconut Development Board said.

Activated carbon is mainly used for the purification of gold, water and air and the quality of the Indian produce, priced at $2 per kg, received a good response from overseas clients. While charcoal is made by burning coconut shells, activated carbon is produced by the steam activation process in which the surface area of charcoal is enhanced manifold by increasing its adsorption capacity. Currently, about 30 companies in India produce activated carbon.

Fresh, frozen and grated coconut exports is another emerging segment in the coconut product export kitty. It fetched a revenue of ₹170 crore, with 28,766 tonne being exported. The product has good demand in the US, Europe, Canada and Australia, with a large Keralite population. Around 12 companies in Kerala are engaged in this business, the officials said.

The introduction of a minimum import price of ₹150 per kg for desiccated coconut has helped control unnecessary imports from Sri Lanka. The export revenue from this product was ₹28 crore on a shipment of 1,856 tonnes, the officials said.

However, industry sources said the prominence of Indian virgin coconut oil is fast eroding, both in the domestic and overseas market, because of its pricing. Indian products with a price tag of ₹500+ are not in a position to compete with the Sri Lankan product, which is available at ₹300. There is a need to reduce the price to compete at least in the domestic market, even as the product finds some takers in the metros.

Ubais Ali, proprietor of the Kochi-based Star Exporters, said that the sector is not getting any export incentive for value-added products even though exports of raw de-husked coconut is bound to get incentives to the tune of 5-7 per cent. Coconut value-added product exports from India is very difficult to sustain just because of the volatility in the price of the raw coconuts. *(The Hindu Business Line)*

HIGHER ARRIVALS, WEAK DEMAND CRUSH COPRA PRICES

Prices of milling copra have plunged to ₹104 per kg in Kerala and ₹100 per kg in Tamil Nadu's

Kangeyam on subdued corporate buying during the pandemic times.

Trade sources said that the Kerala Government's entity Kerafed and a leading Mumbai-based coconut oil manufacturer are the major agencies involved in copra procurement and the lower demand for coconut oil have forced them to reduce their copra intake from the market.

The sources said that these agencies are waiting for the prices to drop further, as a significant amount of copra is arriving in the markets with the start of harvest season in all the production centres.

Earlier, majority of the traders resorted to hoarding, citing logistical issues when prices surged. Now, the price drop has forced them to release the stocks, leading to huge arrivals in the market.

Weak buying due to pandemic

Thalath Mahmood, Director, Cochin Oil Merchants Association, said that the drop in copra prices has begun to reflect in rates of coconut oil, which have declined to ₹169 in Kerala and ₹148 in Tamil Nadu. He attributed the reasons to Covid which resulted in weak buying across the consumer segments. There has been a 50 per cent drop in domestic consumption of coconut oil mainly because of the closing down of catering units, restaurants, and lower purchasing power of people. "Onam festival season in Kerala normally perks up coconut oil demand. But, this time, traders are keeping their fingers crossed on the revival of demand," he said.

The price drop in other edible oils which is available at ₹130-150 range in the retail market has also hit the demand for coconut oil. The inclusion of coconut oil in the food kits supplied by the government through PDS has also affected local sales including that of affluent families who prefer coconut oil as their cooking medium irrespective of its prices, he added. *(The Hindu Business Line)*

OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

INDONESIA, NETHERLANDS REACH AGREEMENT ON PRODUCTION OF SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL, OTHER VEGETABLE OILS

Indonesia and the Netherlands reached an agreement to increase cooperation in the production of sustainable palm oil and other vegetable oils following a meeting between Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi and her Dutch counterpart, Sigrid Kaag, the Jakarta, Antara newswire re- ported last week. Under the existing cooperation between the two countries, the Netherlands has, so far, assisted Indonesia in a capacity building program for palm oil growers in Sumatra and Kalimantan, Marsudi noted during an online media briefing from The Hague last week. The five-million-euro program to be implemented from 2019 to 2023 is aimed at helping smallholder farmers in securing Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil (ISPO) certificates.

"Looking ahead, this cooperation will be expanded to cover other vegetable oils in the context of contributions to SDGs 2030," Marsudi remarked. In a nutshell, sustainable palm oil is palm oil produced in compliance with the no deforestation, no peat development, and no exploitation (NDPE) policy to ensure sustainability. It also promotes traceability for transparency in the supply chain to ensure environment-friendly practices and community welfare support, including fair transactions for smallholder farmers.

The Netherlands is one of the biggest markets for Indo- nesia's palm oil in the European Union. Palm oil constitutes nearly 15 percent of Indonesia's exports to the Netherlands. In 2019, the Netherlands' imports from Indonesia were valued at USD3.1 billion, making it the biggest market for Indonesia's exports among European Union members. On the other hand, the Netherlands is also the second-biggest investor

among European countries in Indonesia after Switzerland with investment value reaching an estimated USD1.4 billion in 2020. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

INDIA'S REDUCED IMPORT DUTY ON PALM OIL GOOD FOR MALAYSIAN INDUSTRY - MPOB

The Indian government's decision to reduce its import duty on crude palm oil (CPO) from 15% to 10% is a boon for Malaysian palm oil industry, giving immediate relief to the smallholders, said the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB).

Director-general Dr Ahmad Parveez Ghulam Kadir said CPO export to India, the world's largest palm oil consumer, is bound to increase further in near future. Based on the industry regulator's data, Malaysia's palm oil export to India increased by more than eight folds to 1.29 million tons during the five-month period to May 2021 from 0.15 million tons recorded during the same period in 2020.

India's Ministry of Finance announced that the new tax rate will be effective from June 30 to September 30, 2021. The Indian Vegetable Oil Producers' Association (IVPA) said the effective import duty on CPO which includes an agriculture development cess and a surcharge has now come down to 30.25% from 35.75%. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

UNRESTRICTED IMPORT OF REFINED OIL IS BAD FOR LOCAL INDUSTRY - SEA

Still from India, the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) has requested the Government to withdraw its decision to freely allow the import of RBD palmolein and RBD palm oil, saying that such a decision would kill the domestic refining industry and will have serious repercussions on farmers.

In a letter to Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, SEA President Atul Chaturvedi said, "The 'opening up' by freely allowing import of RBD palmolein and RBD palm oil will have serious repercussions for both domestic refiners and farmers as this will have a dampening effect on the prices of domestic oilseeds. Also, refined oil import will surely send the industry to the door of bankruptcy as we have seen in the past with so many refineries."

When the Directorate-General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) had placed the import of RBD palmolein and RBD palm oil under the 'Restricted List' from January 8, 2020, SEA said such decision greatly helped domestic edible oil re- finers to increase their capacity utilization by processing larger quantities of crude palm oil (CPO). Import of RBD palmolein dropped from 27.3 lakh tons during the oil year November-October 2018-19 to 4.21 lakh tons in the corresponding period of 2019-20, and hardly 21,000 tons arrived in India during November-May of the oil year 2020-21. This had incentivized more investors in the industry in the past one-and-a-half years. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

INDONESIAN PALM OIL COMPANY COMMITS TO RESTORE FOREST

Apalm oil plantation owned by PT. Agrinusa Persada Mulia is planning to restore forest in Indonesia as part of a remediation plan. KPN Plantation, known as Gama Plantation until 2019, said it would remediate 38,000 hectares of forest in Papua and West Kalimantan, provinces that had undergone mass deforestation between 2013 and 2018, the report said. In KPN's recovery plan, the company had committed to restore three times the area of forest it believed it was liable for clearing. The remediation efforts would include peatland rewetting, reforestation, conservation, and social forestry, the report added.

In 2018, an investigation by Greenpeace had revealed that the Gama company, a group of plantation firms with common ownership, had cleared 21,500 hectares of rainforest in Papua

and West Kalimantan during the previous five years. A Greenpeace campaign targeted at Singapore-listed palm oil trader Wilmar International, which had been using Gama as a supplier in violation of its no deforestation, no peat, no exploitation (NDPE) policy, set in 2013. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

HEALTH NEWS

THE HEALING POWERS OF A YOUNG COCONUT

Twenty years ago, Mohini Sharma used to drive three kilometres to buy a couple of raw coconuts for her child whenever he had diarrhoea. "Tender coconut was hardly available in north India then," says the 45-year-old homemaker, a resident of east Delhi's Mayur Vihar.

Today, her son is 23. A lawyer by profession and a fitness freak, he loves tender coconut water. "It is his favourite 'Cold Drink'," says the mother. "Unlike in the past now we do not even need to step out of our house to get raw coconuts." When the online supermarket that delivers the bulky green coconuts home is out of stock, Sharma buys them from the coconut *thela* (cart)-seller who does daily rounds of their colony.

From the backyards of south and west India to the homes, wellness centres and grocery stores of the north, the green coconut has, indeed, made a big leap. Its spiralling popularity also indicates a high jump in the health awareness levels of the common people.

Health Drink

Earlier, Tender Coconut Water (TCW) was largely seen as a cooling, summer drink but today it is in high demand throughout the year. Until five years ago, Mohd. Aslam, a roadside vendor in south Delhi, used to set up a stall only from March to September, but now he runs it all year. He has even hired help for home delivery of raw coconuts in the neighbouring residences. Other than the fact that TCW) is "cooling" and "good for health", and that doctors have been recommending it since India was hit by the coronavirus, Aslam, like many other sellers and buyers, does not know much about it. This is in sharp contrast to the consumers in the coastal areas where every household knows TCW as a rehydration therapy for fever and diarrhoea, even safe for infants.

The common knowledge is based on tradition and first-hand experience, but does science validate it? The answer is a big "Yes". Quoting medical studies, SR Priya and Lalita Ramaswamy of the Nutrition and Dietetics Department of the College of Arts, Coimbatore, laud TCW. In a research paper titled 'Nature's Elixir to Mankind' (2014, published in International Journal of Recent Scientific Research), the authors say, "TCW is composed of both organic and inorganic compounds which play a vital role in aiding the human body antioxidant system; its inorganic ions are required for normal cellular function and are critical for enzyme activation, bone formation, haemoglobin function, gene expression, and the metabolism of amino acids, lipids and carbohydrates." "These ions contribute to the therapeutic value inherent in coconut water," the paper says, adding that "this basic ion composition of coconut can replenish the electrolytes of the human body excreted through sweat such as sodium, potassium, magnesium, and calcium."

Medical Validation

The mineral composition of TCW is described as 95.5% water, 4% sugars, 0.1% fat, 0.02% calcium, 0.01% phosphorous, 0.5% iron, considerable amounts of amino acids, mineral salts, vitamin B complex, vitamin C, and cytokines. The other components in TCW include sugar alcohols, lipids, amino acids, nitrogenous compounds, organic acids, and enzymes.

The Coconut Development Board of India endorses TCW for at least a dozen health

problems, including kidney stones, intestinal worms, urinary infections, and oral rehydration during cholera.

A review by Sunil L. and others in the November 2020 issue of Indian Coconut Journal (ICJ) describes TWC as 'Nature's Miracle Health Drink'. In an exhaustive list of its benefits, the paper says: "It can be used to prevent oxidative stress, provide antioxidant activity, prevent lipid peroxidation activity, improve lipid profile, control blood pressure, improve cardio-protective activity, provide anti-inflammatory effects, diarrhoea therapy, increase haemoglobin levels, anti-diabetic effects, anti-thrombotic activities, anti-cancer and anti-viral effects." *(The Federal)*

ON A WEIGHT-LOSS ROUTINE? ADD THESE 7 COCONUT-BASED SUMMER DRINKS TO YOUR DIET

There's probably nothing better on a summer day than a glass of refreshing and breezy coconut water. It's always been the go-to drink as the sun shines at its brightest. However, when it comes to staying hydrated while replenishing nutrients, there are many ways in which you can use the humble coconut water or milk, which is made from the white flesh inside the fruit. Coconut is a storehouse of electrolytes and good fats, which your body can benefit from. When consumed in measured quantities, it can give you enough calories to energize the body and is also easily digested, reduces appetite and untimely cravings.

Here are 7 coconut drinks that are magic potions in themselves. With each sip, they will transport you to the perfect summer destination.

Coconut Water With Lemon and Mint

To make this cooler, you just need to add grated coconut, mint, lemon juice, and honey to a glass of fresh coconut water. It's an absolute thirst-quencher.

Sol Kadi

All that it takes to make this specialty from Maharashtra's Konkan region is 15 minutes. Sol Kadi is made from kokum and coconut milk. You need to soak the kokum in asafoetida (hing) water for a few hours, and then add it to spiced coconut milk. It helps in cooling down the digestive system.

Cucumber And Coconut Gazpacho

Chopped cucumber, mint, and coconut milk— how can this not be a refreshing drink? You could use it as an appetizer after meals, or snack on it to feel hydrated.

Mango Coconut Smoothie

We have everything sunny here — mangoes, honey, sunflower seeds, oats, yogurt, and coconut milk. This drink is the perfect partner for your weight-loss workout regime as well. Have it right in the morning to feel energized.

Iced Coconut Chai

If you are craving some rich tropical flavor, go for this coconut tea. It's tasty, nutritious, and will keep you cool and refreshed on hot days. Apart from coconut milk, you'd need cinnamon and cardamom to make this summer indulgence. Splash it with honey for taste.

Thai Coconut Pineapple Drink

If coconut water and pineapple juice are your ideal ways of staying hydrated during the hot months, this Thai Coconut Pineapple Drink should be right up your alley. You will need pineapples, limes, oranges, ginger, and coconut water to make this cooler. Add ice cubes before serving. Pineapples and coconuts are rich in vitamins, making this a supremely healthy drink.

Coconut Water Coffee

This Coconut Water Coffee is the perfect recipe for those who want a caffeine hit but are

lactose intolerant. It's easy to make, and naturally sweetened, thanks to the coconut water and milk, and has a lot of hydrating benefits. Pour health into your cup with this drink. For best results, have it chilled. *(NDTV Food)*

COCONUT RECIPE

RICE NOODLE WITH FISH CURRY

Ingredients

- 2 cups thick coconut milk
- 4 kaffir lime (Citrus hystrix) leaves
- 2 tbsp fish sauce
- 4 cups thin coconut milk

Curry Paste

- 1 tbsp chopped ginger
- 1 tbsp chopped kaffir lime zest
- ⅓ cup chopvvvped shallot
- ⅓ cup chopped garlic
- 2 tbsp shrimp paste
- ½ tsp black pepper
- ½ cup Chinesse ginger (krachai or Kaempferia panduratum
- 4 small chilli peppers
- ⅓ cup sliced lemongrass
- 1 ½ cups freshwater fish meat

Instructions

1. To prepare curry paste, pound ginger, kaffir lime zest, shallot, garlic, shrimp paste, pepper, krachai, chilli pepper and lemongrass. Add fish meat and mix well. Set aside.
2. In medium-size pot, cook thick coconut milk over low heat until oil surfaces.
3. Add curry paste mixture. Stir occasionally. Cook for 2-3 minutes.
4. Add kaffir lime leaves, fish sauce and thin coconut milk. Simmer for 5 minutes. Remove from heat.
5. Serve with rice noodles, fresh vegetables and spicy sauce.
6. Makes 4-5 servings

(Coconut Recipes from Around the World)

STATISTICS

Table 1. Monthly Export of Coconut Shell Charcoal by Selected Countries 2019 - 2021 (In MT)

MONTH	Indonesia			Philippines			Sri Lanka		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
January	42,526	38,556	38,556	2,864	6,006	5,273	490	757	709
February	39,204	42,145	36,791	6,134	7,629	6,230	968	935	1,045
March	47,947	45,015	40,636	4,676	9,887	10,382	762	876	882
April	40,578	35,826	42,327	7,763	4,405	8,979	708	917	548
May	48,828	25,769	25,660	7,279	6,449		656	1,554	991
June	24,233	34,619	29,232	7,242	9,182		696	953	412
July	40,523	39,076		7,618	9,469		732	1,121	
August	38,845	36,771		8,490	854		1,679	837	
September	35,541	36,106		7,310	8,334		1,550	1,202	
October	41,621	40,730		10,189	8,313		1,163	1,096	
November	48,243	35,387		8,828	7,077		1,187	1,048	
December	38,305	36,670		8,858	7,120		1,018	742	
TOTAL	**486,394**	**446,671**	**213,202**	**87,251**	**84,725**	**30,864**	**11,609**	**12,038**	**4,587**

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

Table 2. Monthly Export of Activated Carbon by Selected Countries 2019 - 2021 (In MT)

MONTH	Indonesia			Philippines			Sri Lanka		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
January	2,582	2,171	1,415	6,216	6,819	6,170	3,429	4,177	4,311
February	2,655	2,326	2,250	7,425	7,328	5,616	2,754	3,233	3,701
March	2,469	2,412	2,609	5,771	6,991	7,193	3,577	2,738	5,050
April	2,435	2,691	2,379	7,979	4,592	5,782	2,995	2,271	3,579
May	2,489	2,256	1,929	7,399	5,782		3,708	3,784	4,781
June	1,919	2,359	1,720	6,298	6,873		4,175	4,425	4,491
July	3,044	2,404		6,207	7,896		3,976	4,395	
August	2,690	2,208		5,983	6,499		4,018	4,080	
September	2,156	2,325		6,630	6,864		3,611	4,054	
October	2,197	2,130		6,949	6,506		3,754	4,206	
November	2,289	2,133		5,624	4,713		3,321	3,771	
December	1,782	2,199		5,771	6,116		3,055	4,172	
TOTAL	**27,693**	**28,708**	**27,614**	**73,486**	**78,252**	**76,979**	**38,566**	**42,373**	**45,306**

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

Table 3. Export Destination of Activated Carbon from India and Indonesia, January-June 2021

India			Indonesia		
Country of Destination	**Volume (MT)**	**Value (US$ 000)**	**Country of Destination**	**Volume (MT)**	**Value (US$ 000)**
1. U S A	10,823	23,270	1. CHINA	4,250	4,050
2. SRI LANKA	4,504	9,260	2. GERMANY	1,181	2,270
3. GERMANY	3,889	8,070	3. TAIWAN	1,017	1,922
4. RUSSIA	3,289	5,760	4. JAPAN	1,299	1,693
5. BELGIUM	2,528	5,220	5. AUSTRALIA	726	1,624
6. JAPAN	2,301	4,250	6. UNITED STATES	693	1,261
7. CHINA	1,968	5,430	7. SOUTH KOREA	818	1,007
8. SOUTH KOREA	1,865	3,820	8. NETHERLANDS	484	910
9. SOUTH AFRICA	1,718	3,780	9. SRI LANKA	288	565
10. CANADA	1,546	3,610	10. ESTONIA	242	515
11. OTHERS	28,699	46,790	11. OTHERS	1,306	2,399
Total	**63,129**	**119,240**	**Total**	**12,304**	**18,216**

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

Table 4. US Imports of Coconut Shell Charcoal based Activated Carbon, 2019-2021

Month	2019		2020		2021	
	Volume (MT)	**Value US$'000**	**Volume (MT)**	**Value US$'000**	**Volume (MT)**	**Value US$'000**
January	3,861	8,822	3,861	8,822	4,569	9,221
February	3,771	8,205	3,771	8,205	3,334	7,157
March	5,373	10,810	5,373	10,810	4,413	9,764
April	4,274	8,697	4,274	8,697	3,155	6,673
May	4,569	9,133	4,569	9,133	3,728	8,645
June	4,722	9,754	4,722	9,754	4,245	9,641
July	5,424	10,675	5,424	10,675	4,130	10,727
August	4,375	8,756	4,375	8,756		
September	4,545	9,403	4,545	9,403		
October	4,502	9,650	4,502	9,650		
November	3,285	6,981	3,285	6,981		
December	3,632	7,041	3,632	7,041		
Total	**52,334**	**107,927**	**52,334**	**107,927**	**27,575**	**61,828**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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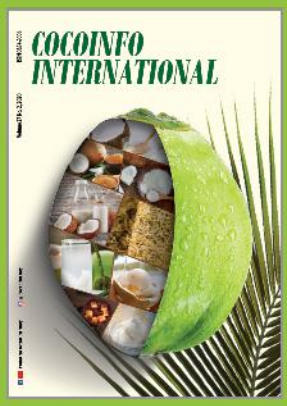

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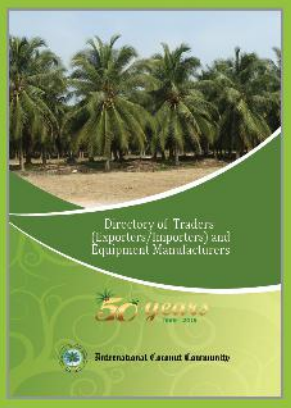

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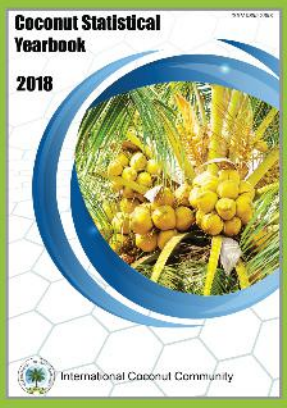

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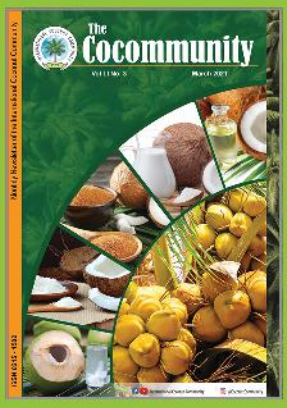

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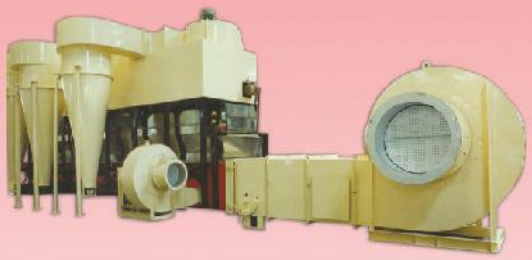

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Established in 1969, under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Commision for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP), the ICC is an independent regional intergovernmental organization which consist of twenty member countries and accounts 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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