



The Cocommunity

Vol LI No. 11

November 2021



International Coconut Community



@CoconutCommunity



T & I Global Ltd.

COMPLETE PROCESSING LINES FOR
COCONUT INDUSTRY
www.coconutmachineryindia.com
email: marketing@tiglobal.com

COMPLETE ENGINEERING, DESIGN,
MANUFACTURING & INSTALLATION
OF COCONUT PROCESSING PLANTS

band dryer



**automatic
paring machine**



**automatic
water extractor**



vco expeller



100+
INSTALLATIONS
WORLDWIDE



**SINGLE POINT
SOLUTIONS FOR
COCONUT
PROCESSING**

50+
YEARS OF
EXPERIENCE

Think Coconut. Think TIGL.

**TUNKEY
PROCESSING
SOLUTIONS**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Executive Director Speaks	
<i>"Coconut Conference and Exhibition during Uncertain Time"</i>	2
Prevailing Market Prices of Selected Coconut Products and Oils	3-4
Market Review of Coir	5-6
Community News	7-21
Trade News	22-24
Other Vegeoil News	24-26
Health News	26-28
Coconut Recipe	28
Statistics	29-30

TABLE LIST

Table 1.	Export Volume (MT) of Coir Products from India, 2017-2021 (April-March)	5
Table 2.	Export of Coir Products from Sri Lanka, January - October 2021	6
Table 3.	SRI LANKA: Exports of Mattress, Bristle and Twisted Fibers, 2019-2021 (In MT)	29
Table 4.	SRI LANKA: Monthly Export Prices of Mattress, Bristle and Twisted Fibers, 2019-2021 (US\$/MT, FOB Colombo)	29
Table 5.	SRI LANKA: Exports of Yarn, Twine and Pith, 2019-2021 (In MT)	30
Table 6.	SRI LANKA: Monthly Export Prices of Yarn, Twine and Pith, 2019-2021 (US\$/MT, FOB Colombo)	30

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPEAKS ...



It was most encouraging to witness the overwhelming turn out of over 700 participants, 60 exhibitors, and 26 expert speakers on the recent occasion of the 49th International COCOTECH Conference & Exhibitions, which was conducted virtually during 30 August-4 September 2021 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The COVID-19 pandemic is transforming how we organize the conference and exhibition to keep coconut stakeholders safe and stay informed about the latest technologies/products and do business in the sector.

The excellent feedback received at the 49th COCOTECH Conference reaffirms that there is much encouragement and excitement developing about life under the coconut tree and on coconut. The coconut sector's future looks bright and promising as players work together to advance technology and expand their knowledge base, ensuring viability in all industry value chains.

Similarly, ICC announces the upcoming 50th ICC COCOTECH Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 10-14 October 2022, that will be held in both physical and virtual, or hybrid mode, under the theme: "Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy for a Resilient and Sustainable Coconut Agroindustry". It is expected that over 700 industry stakeholders in both private and public sector would be attending from over 20 different nationalities. New knowledge, information and technologies on sustainable coconut development would be presented, discussed, and exchanged.

The Conference and Exhibition for high-level exchange of knowledge, experience, technical developments, and enhanced agronomic practices that benefit everyone. Government ministers and senior heads of departments from ICC member nations are among those who will be directly involved in influencing policy and deciding on the priorities to be included in the content of national programs to be performed in their respective countries. The technical contributions made in papers presented by research scientists, program implementors, and private sector commercial applications would result in the formulation of crucial recommendations for consideration and possible adoption in coconut-growing countries.

ICC is looking forward to greeting our stakeholders in the global coconut sector, including our international partners, at the 50th COCOTECH Conference 2022 where we expect to learn a lot more as stakeholders gather to share innovative knowledge, products, and technologies, and seek to improve the coconut sector to make it more resilient and sustainable.

DR. JELFINA C. ALOUW
Executive Director

PREVAILING MARKET PRICES OF SELECTED COCONUT PRODUCTS AND OILS

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

COPRA: The price of copra in Indonesia was US\$917/MT in October 2021, which was higher than previous month's price. Compared to the same month of last year the price was US\$ 280/MT higher.

In the domestic market of the Philippines (Manila), the price increased by US\$ 149/MT from US\$804/MT to US\$953/MT. The price was US\$228/MT higher compared to the price of US\$665/MT in October 2020.

COCONUT OIL: The average price of coconut oil in Europe (C.I.F. Rotterdam) for October 2021 was increased at US\$1,867/MT in October 2021. This price was higher by 41% as opposed to the price in October 2020 at US\$1,105/MT.

The average local price of coconut oil in the Philippines in October 2021 was not quoted.

The FOB price of coconut oil in Indonesia in October 2021 scaled up by US\$71/MT compared to the previous month from US\$1,424/MT to US\$1,495/MT. October 2021 price was US\$462/MT higher than the price of the same month of 2020 which was US\$1,033/MT.

COPRA MEAL: The average domestic price of the commodity in the Philippines at selling points was quoted at US\$235/MT. The price was US\$36/MT higher compared to the previous month and was US\$26/MT higher than the last year price for the same month.

The average domestic price of copra meal in Indonesia was US\$267/MT which was slightly higher than previous month price. The price was US\$17/MT higher than last year's price in the same month.

DESICCATED COCONUT: The average price of desiccated coconut (DC) FOB USA in October 2021 was US\$2,495/MT, which was higher than previous month price and US\$275/MT higher than the price of the same month last year.

In Sri Lanka, the domestic price of desiccated coconut in October 2021 was US\$2,501/MT or US\$76/MT lower than in September 2021. Meanwhile, the price of DC in the domestic market of Philippines in October 2021 was US\$2,039/MT which was the same as price in September 2021 and US\$141/MT lower than the price in October 2020. Indonesian price of DC in October 2021 was lower than in September 2021, and was higher compared to last year's price of US\$2,150/MT.

COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL: In Philippines, the average price of the commodity in October 2021 was US\$454/MT which was lower than previous month's price. Meanwhile, Indonesia's charcoal price slightly increased from US\$575/MT in September 2021 to US\$578/MT in October 2021. Moreover, compared to last year's price, the price was higher by US\$9/MT. Sri Lanka's price in October 2021 was US\$573/MT which was higher than last month's price.

COIR FIBRE: Coir fiber was traded in the domestic market in Sri Lanka at US\$143/MT for mix fiber and US\$576/MT-US\$877/MT for bristle. The Indonesian price for mixed raw fiber was US\$220/MT in October 2021 which was the same as price in September 2021.

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

Products/Country	2021 Oct	2021 Sep	2020 Oct (Annual Ave.)	2021
Dehusked Coconut				
Philippines (Domestic)	195	172	165	220
Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use)	226	215	191	211
Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use)	261	262	n.q.	279
India (Domestic Kerala)	513	524	637	593
Copra				
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	953	804	665	912
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	917	857	637	883
Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo)	1,451	1,493	1,400	1,626
India (Dom. Kochi)	1,365	1,421	1,692	1,626
Coconut Oil				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	1,867	1,486	1,105	1,571
Philippines (Domestic)	n.q.	n.q.	1,044	1,425
Indonesia (Domestic)	1,495	1,424	1,033	1,435
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	2,912	2,928	2,428	3,012
India (Domestic, Kerala)	2,297	2,355	2,546	2,587
Desiccated Coconut				
Philippines FOB (US), Seller	2,497	2,495	2,222	2,516
Philippines (Domestic)	2,039	2,039	2,039	2,039
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	2,501	2,577	2,642	2,744
Indonesia (FOB)	2,250	2,363	2,150	2,338
India (Domestic)	2,032	2,069	2,300	2,225
Copra Meal Exp. Pel.				
Philippines (Domestic)	235	199	209	225
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	282	271	n.q.	313
Indonesia (Domestic)	267	265	250	286
Coconut Shell Charcoal				
Philippines (Domestic), Buyer	454	478	396	488
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	573	565	435	535
Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer	578	⁵⁷⁵	569	587
India (Domestic)	545	567	551	567
Coir Fibre				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre)	143	141	111	129
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	576	570	676	589
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	877	867	898	856
Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre)	220	220	300	297
Other Oil				
Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	1,807	1,427	801	1,447
Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	1,307	1,181	758	1,098
Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill)	1,483	1,399	915	1,318

Exchange Rate

Oct 31, '21 1 US\$ = P50.55 or Rp14,193 or India Rs74.93 or SL Rs201.75
 1 Euro = US\$1.17 n.q. = no quote

MARKET REVIEW OF COIR

Amid the economic challenges caused by the pandemic, global market of coir products showed an impressive performance. The main producing countries like India, Sri Lanka dan Indonesia enjoyed an increase in their exports for the products. During April 2020-March 2021, India was still able to accelerate its exports of coir products to global market. A total volume of 1.16 million tons of coir and coir products were shipped from India to the global market during the period. The volume hiked by 18% as opposed to the period of April 2019-March 2020 and created export revenue of Rs. 27,579 million or equivalent to US\$374.68 million. Coir pith was constituted for 71% of total volume and contributed 61% of the total export revenue. It is worth noting that during the last decade Indian export of the products rose significantly with CAGR of 12.3%. Coir pith is still the largest contributor to the Indian export earnings from coir products.

Indian export destinations of coir products cover more than 100 countries worldwide. China and South Korea are the main importers in the Asian continent followed by USA in the American continent. Meanwhile, Netherlands and Spain are the biggest importers in Europe.

In Sri Lanka, export earnings of coir products during last ten months recorded an increase of 21% as opposed to previous year's value. Total export value of the products reached US\$211.82 million during January-October 2021. Moulded coir products used for horticulture were the country's highest contributor to the export revenue during the period. Export value of moulded coir products which were mainly used for horticulture was US\$147.2 million, accounting for more than 69% of the total export value of coir based products. The export value was 29% higher compared to the previous year's value. In terms of volume, export of the product was higher by 21% compared to the volume a year earlier. Other products that significantly contributed to the export earnings were mattress fibre, and coir pith.

Sri Lankan coir products were shipped to more than 117 countries around the globe. USA, Mexico and Canada were the main destinations in American continent. Meanwhile, China, Japan and South Korea were the main importers in Asia. In Europe, UK, Netherlands, and France were the biggest importers in the continent.

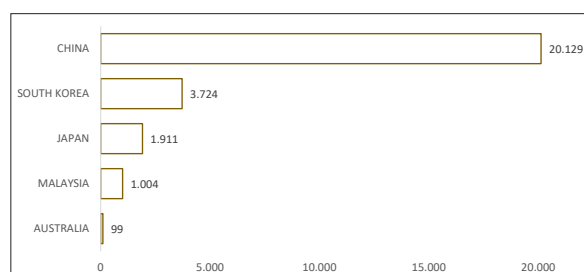
Unlike India and Sri Lanka, Indonesian export of coir products is dominated by raw fibre; coir fibre and coir

Table 1. Export Volume (MT) of Coir Products from India, 2017-2021 (April-March)

Products	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Coir Pith	490,552	548,479	566,661	579,980	680,898
Tufted Mats	51,718	54,279	54,131	58,300	81,799
Coir Fibre	370,357	374,320	299,279	308,457	354,123
Handloom Mats	20,144	18,277	19,367	16,910	20,527
Geo-Textiles	6,219	5,845	7,674	8,068	8,583
Coir Yarn	4,426	3,328	3,408	3,028	3,849
Curled Coir	10,356	8,800	10,768	11,290	9,381
Handloom Matting	1,273	1,117	1,071	1,177	1,418
Rubberised Coir	888	900	807	578	982
Coir Rugs and Carpets	205	254	195	367	327
Coir Other Sorts	256	306	183	298	744
Coir Rope	484	491	486	512	505
Powerloom Mats	166	37	8	26	65
Powerloom Matting	0	131	7	5	11
Total	957,044	957,045	964,046	988,996	1,163,213

pith. During January-August 2021, export volume of coir based products from Indonesia recorded an increase by 6% from 25,528 MT to 27,115 MT in 2020. which lower than previous year volume of 15,869 MT. However in terms of value, the export scaled up by 2.1% reflecting higher prices of the products. China was still major destination for coir from Indonesia. During the period, more than 75% of coir products from Indonesia was sent to China. Other destinations include South Korea, Malaysia, Japan and Saudi Arabia. Coir fibre and coir pith were the main products sent from Indonesia to global market.

Figure 1. Export destination of Coir Products from Indonesia, January—August 2021 (MT)



Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia

In third quarter of 2021, price of coir showed an increasing trend in Sri Lanka but decreasing trend in Indonesia. Price of coir fibre in Sri Lanka was US\$107/MT in December 2020 and was gradually leveling up to reach US\$143/MT in October 2021 accounting for price appreciation by 33.5%. In contrast, price of coir fibre in Indonesia showed a negative trend, especially in the third quarter of 2021. Price of coir fibre in December 2020 was USD313/MT and leveled up to US\$330/MT in June 2021, but then went down to US\$220/MT in October 2021.

Figure 2. Average Monthly Price of Coir Fibre January 2013 – September 2021 (US\$/MT)

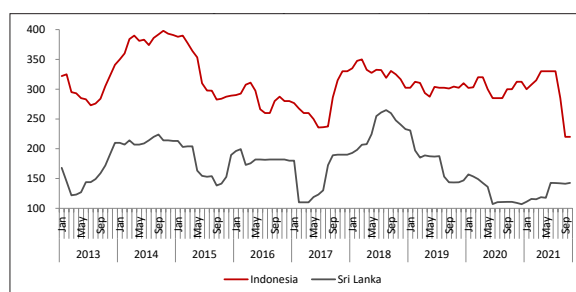


Table 2. Export of Coir Products from Sri Lanka, January - October 2021

Fibre Products	Volume			Value (US\$'000)		
	Jan-Oct 2020	Jan-Oct 2021	% Change	Jan-Oct 2020	Jan-Oct 2021	% Change
Mattress Fibre (MT)	59,024	64,546	9.4	14,241	16,724	17.4
Bristle Fibre (MT)	1,038	1,503	44.8	1,465	1,962	34.0
Twisted Fibre (MT)	25,781	18,283	-29.1	7,945	6,518	-18.0
Coir Yarn (MT)	850	1,025	20.6	694	872	25.7
Coir Twine (MT)	6,132	6,363	3.8	8,080	8,187	1.3
Tawashi Brushes (Pcs '000)	20,415	18,479	-9.5	3,352	3,067	-8.5
Coir Brooms & Brushes (Pcs '000) (Other than tawashi)	13,724	11,465	-16.5	6,019	7,564	25.7
Rubberized Coir pads & Mattress for Bedding (Pcs)	565,737	673,689	19.1	854	786	-7.9
Coir Mats & Rugs (M2)	260,760	339,624	30.2	1,266	1,638	29.4
Coir Matting (M2)	2,913	5,733	96.8	23	18	-20.4
Coir Fibre Pith /Dust (MT)	32,734	36,120	10.3	8,146	10,037	23.2
Husk Chips (MT)	6,190	2,369	-61.7	2,870	920	-67.9
Geo Textiles (MT)	3,868	3,851	-0.4	4,072	4,343	6.6
Moulded coir products for use in Horticulture (MT)	228,817	277,836	21.4	114,290	147,159	28.8

COMMUNITY NEWS

INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE COURSE FOR COCONUT DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS KICK STARTED

The 3rd International Certificate Course for Coconut Development Officers started virtually on 4th October and will be concluded on 5th November 2021. The course is conducted by Coconut Research Institute of Sri Lanka (CRISL) in association with the International Coconut Community (ICC). The virtual course is being conducted for 23 days covering 45 lectures in 63 hours. The first two courses were conducted successfully in 2018 and 2019 at CRISL Campus.

The teaching panel comprises predominantly of well-experienced scientists from CRISL, other research and development institutions, and university staff. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the training could not conduct during 2020. The training launched with the inauguration ceremony commenced on 4th October 2021, by lighting of the traditional oil lamp and playing the national anthem of Sri Lanka.

Dr. Saranga Alahapperuma, Chairman, CRI Sri Lanka, delivered the welcome address. He expressed his appreciation for the support from the government of Sri Lanka, ICC, ITC, NAM CSSTC, dignitaries, and other international organization partners. He encouraged all participants to fully participate in the training sessions and adopt new knowledge from the classes, which can be very well implemented in their countries for the development of the sector.

Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director, ICC, in her address mentioned that the primary aim of the training is to assist the member countries in addressing various issues in the coconut sector, including research, knowledge, technology, innovation gaps, by building and enhancing the capacity of field level coconut officers in their

respective countries. Development of strong science, technology, and capacity are some of the keys to addressing the persistence and emerging challenges associated with the low productivity of coconut, poverty of small-scale farmers, low product diversification, and value-added product development, and trade-related issues that ICC member countries are facing now. All ICC member countries are united to support each other, through collaboration with other international research institutions and organizations like CRISL, NAM Centre, ITC, ACIAR and other coconut research institutes, coconut development boards of the countries.

She hoped that the valuable opportunity to join this virtual training course could optimally benefit the coconut sector development. She also hoped that all trainees have a strong commitment to learning, have a good analytical ability, and a general willingness to share the reliable knowledge and experience with others, to implement the knowledge and technology to the coconut sector, and she was looking forward to their recommendations for the sustainable coconut development of their country.

Dr. Sanathanie Ranasinghe, Director, CRI, Sri Lanka, in her address, expressed that she was happy to see the increase in the number of trainees from various countries attending this training program. In 2018 the participants were only 14 from 8 countries, whereas the number increased to 21 participants from 14 countries during 2019. This year 39 participants from 19 countries are registered to attend the course. She hoped that all participants take maximum benefits of the training with their active participation, not only to gain knowledge and experience but also to strengthen the link and friendship amongst the participants from different continents of the world. She also hoped that the participants would work as one team and exchange ideas during the training period.

In his address, Mr. Ravindra Hewavitharana, Secretary, Ministry of Plantation, Sri Lanka, mentioned that participants from different countries gathered to learn knowledge on

coconut production and the related Industries. In this process, if millions of growers and industrialists are inbound and contribute to uplift the industry, it would be a great relief to the coconut community as well as to the millions of related parties in those countries. There are regional disparities and regional development issues are being addressed. The entire world has recognized the health benefits, cosmetic advantages, and nutritional value of coconut and coconut products. He highly appreciated the timely initiative taken by the International Coconut Community to broaden the horizon of the leaders of coconut development along with CRI, Sri Lanka, amid the existing COVID-19 pandemic.

In his address, Mr. William Castro Rodriguez, International Trade Centre, mentioned that this course underlined the importance of promoting the coconut industries all around the world and sharing linkages between the coconut growing communities. As the coconut demand continued to increase, it is important to target the main issues to increase coconut production. This comprehensive course will address all these issues and it will be of great benefit for participants all around the world. Although this training could not be conducted physically, he appreciated the effort of the CRI and ICC for organizing this event and hoped that through this course participants can replicate to share the knowledge. The ITC promotes an “answer-for-action approach” which is building partnership, sharing experiences, and having a comprehensive approach for activities that they do. Those all are in line with the international course’s approach.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Athula Nainanayake, Course Director, CRISL. He extended his thanks to all those who supported, contributed, in any form to make this event and training program a success. He encouraged and requested all trainees to actively participate and try to take the maximum benefits out of this training to contribute to the coconut industry in their countries and the global coconut industry.

A short video of the recap of 2019 training was played. (*ICC News*)

NEW ICC-COGENT COORDINATOR RESUMES OFFICE

Mrs. Erlene C. Manohar has resumed office of ICC as the new ICC-COGENT Coordinator, who has recently stepped down from her long-serving post as Deputy Administrator from the Philippines Coconut Authority. She began her new post working initially remotely, on Monday 4th October 2021. The informal welcome and introduction to her induction on the day was attended by ICC’s executives and professional staffs; Dr. Carmel A. Pilotti, Associate Scientist, Coconut Genetic Resources, Fiji; Dr. Roland Bourdeix, Bioversity, France; Dr. Irene Kernot, Research Program Manager Horticulture, ACIAR, Australia.

Dr. Irene Kenot, ACIAR, delivered the welcome remarks. She expressed her appreciation to Ms. Erlene for being willing to share and participate and contribute to the future sustainability of COGENT, as an important part of that for preserving and promoting the capacity and capability to share that coconut genetic resources network. She was also thankful to Mr. Vincent, outgoing COGENT Coordinator for managing the projects, that despite the pandemic, there’s been progress and there’s also a lot to do with the willingness and the enthusiasm of the team.

Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director, ICC, in her introductory address expressed her gratefulness to have Ms. Erlene, a highly experienced and knowledgeable person as definitive COGENT Coordinator. She acknowledged Ms. Erlene’s long and impressive career and has shown strong leadership during her tenure as Deputy Administrator, for Research and Development of the PCA. She congratulated and warmly welcomed Ms. Erlene to become part of COGENT and ICC Secretariat team.

She also expressed her sincere gratitude to the outgoing COGENT Coordinator, Mr. Vincent Johnson, for his invaluable and countless hours of support and strong commitment in building and growing COGENT to what it is today and wish him the very best in his future, with the new positive collaborative energy to keep supporting COGENT and ICC, as COGENT plays a very substantial role in the coconut conservation and use. With the full-time coordinator's active engagement to member countries, countries hosting the 5 International Genes Bank, and national and international institutions and organizations, she believed that most of the challenges can be addressed. She also hoped that in collaboration with the new Coordinator, ICC could expand membership to cover all COGENT members with active involvement and participation in ICC and COGENT programs. ED also presented an overview of some programs and projects of the ICC.

Mr. Vincent Johnson, the outgoing COGENT Coordinator, presented COGENT program, an overview of the COGENT Strategy, Steering Committee, ITAGs, ICGS, COGENT Sustainability Plan Outline, an overview of ongoing ACIAR project, website, and communication, followed by a discussion of COGENT Coordinator's role and working arrangements.

In her remarks, Ms. Erlene mentioned, "We need to work as a team with all others who works with COGENT before, to make difference in setting up the direction for the coconut industry globally. With all member countries depending on us, we must work as one and moving forward toward the welfare of the stakeholders of the industry. Let us envision transformation and convergence among member countries, in uplifting the lives of coconut farmers through conservation and protection of our coconut genetic resources. I will be an active partner of the team and share the same vision for the coconut growing community." (*ICC News*)

SECOND WEBINAR ON COCONUT HUSK, COCOPEAT AND ACTIVATED CARBON BY INTERNATIONAL COCONUT COMMUNITY AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE

International Coconut Community (ICC) in collaboration with International Trade Centre (ITC) organized a webinar on "Coconut husk, Cocopeat and Activated Carbon" on 12 October 2021. The training is part of the MoU executed between ICC and the ITC with the purpose to establish a framework of engagement and cooperation between ITC and the ICC to develop mechanisms for transferring technology relating to value-added coconut products, under the project "Alliances for the Coconut Industry Development Expansion and Enhanced Support for the Caribbean". 165 registrants attended the webinar.

This is the second of a series of training and webinar lined up. The other partner collaborator of this series is CARIFORUM financed by the European Union, and implemented by ITC, CARDI, and important Alliances partners, ACP, and Coconut Industry Board.

Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director, ICC, delivered the welcome remarks. She hoped that through this webinar there will be awareness that coconut husk and coconut shell can be feasibly processed into a variety of marketable and profitable products. With the increasing global market demand of the coir products and activated carbon, participants can take the market opportunities and this webinar will definitely inspires ideas and discussion for the development of business plan for coconut shell and husk-based products for the local and global market for the benefits of coconut farmers, their family and the community. It will also supporting the resilience and sustainable coconut industry.

Mr. Chetiya Dharmadasa, Divisional Manager, HAYCARB PLC, Sri Lanka, presented the company profile and activities of Haycarb, an activated carbon and water purifier system company, with 6 manufacturers in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and Thailand. He explained the manufacturing process and different applications of activated carbon.

Mr. S. Mahendran, Chief Executive Officer, Lanktrad International (Pvt) Ltd., and President of Sri Lankan Coir and Allied Products Manufacturers Association, Sri Lanka, presented the processing, production, and marketing potential of coir and husk-based products in which he introduced the husk-based processing sector in Sri Lanka and identified the production and marketing potential of coir and husk-based products.

Mr. Radhakrishnan. A, Assistant Director, National Coir Training and Design Centre, Coir Board, Kerala, India, presented the importance of coconut husk and coir-based products and criteria for setting up potential coir industries, coir industry in India, the importance and advantages of coconut husk and its products.

There was an in-depth discussion on the topics, and the speakers addressed the queries. This webinar was moderated by Mr. Brian-Lee Chandler, ITC. *(ICC News)*

ICC-COGENT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

ICC-COGENT Steering Committee (SC) members of Coconut Genetic Resources Network (COGENT) from across the globe met virtually on 13-15 October 2021. COGENT is one of the major programs of ICC since 2020. The objectives of organizing this year's meeting is to set the wheels in motion for finalizing a Roadmap towards a self-sustaining COGENT; discuss COGENT's activities to date and its agenda until the end of the ACIAR grant period (30 June 2022), and beyond, provide technical and policy guidance to COGENT

and to welcome Erlene Manohar as the new COGENT Coordinator.

The meeting was started with the welcome address by Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director of ICC, followed by address of Ms. Irene Kernot, Research Program Manager for Horticulture ACIAR, and Dr. Jean-Marc Roda, new Director of CIRAD South-East Asia Island Region. A congratulatory message was delivered by Administrator Madrigal and formally introduced Mrs. Erlene C. Manohar as the new ICC COGENT Coordinator.

The first-day discussion was focused on the International Coconut Genebank activities, following the ACIAR grant work plan and progress. The discussion included the ICG appraisals status and schedule presented by the respective ICG curator of all the five ICGs. Mr. Vincent Johnson, the outgoing cogent coordinator informed the forum that the appraisal of ICG South Pacific hosted by Papua New Guinea, and Africa the Indian Ocean, hosted by Cote d'Ivoire, is already completed, while ICG South-East Asia, hosted by Indonesia, is pending due to pandemic quarantine and the visit is scheduled in November-December 2021, depending on the quarantine protocol. The appraisal visits to ICG South Asia and the Middle East, hosted by India, also was planned in December 2021 or the first quarter of 2022, while ICG Latin America and the Caribbean, hosted by Brazil, will be scheduled in and around Spring Season in 2022. The status and short review report briefed by Mr. Danielle Manzella, ITPGR about the renewal of all articles 15 of ICG hosting countries with FAO's International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA).

The second day's meeting started with a short address by Dr. Syafruddin, Director, ICERD, Bogor, Indonesia. He informed the forum about the status of the Article 15 agreement pending with the Government of Indonesia and about the full support of ICG-SEA hosted by Balit Palma, Govt of Indonesia. The permeable on ITAG progress was presented by the leaders

of all the four International Thematic Action Groups (ITAGs), which are Ex Situ and In Situ Conversation (ITAG 1), Genomics and Breeding (ITAG 2), Phytopathology, Entomology & Germplasm Movement (ITAG 3) and In Vitro Culture & Cryo-Conversation (ITAG 4). The discussion was including the scope and outlining and harmonizing priority projects by each ITAG, resource mobilization targets, the idea for ITAG webinars on priority areas, and how to make ITAGs activities more effective.

The third day was mainly focused on COGENT membership. The session had an in-depth discussion about the strategy of engaging all 39 COGENT member countries, possibilities of non-ICC members becoming ICC members, and to consider an Annual General Meeting in January 2022.

The session was also discussed on COGENT sustainability plan and roadmap which was presented by Mrs. Erlene C. Manohar. The discussion included the work plan and budget for COGENT strategy implementation and linking the COGENT roadmap to the ITAGs activity roadmap. To celebrate the COGENT's 30th Anniversary in 2022 was also discussed in the session.

The meeting was attended by the SC voting members, ITAG leaders and members; ICG curators; and observers and non-voting members of COGENT. There was in depth discussion on almost all three days meetings which was very productive and resulted in several recommendations to be implemented in the coming days. *(ICC News)*

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 57TH ICC SESSION AND MINISTERIAL MEETING

ICC Session & Ministerial Meeting is the highest decision-making body of the Community and is held annually to discuss, deliberate and take policy decisions on the activities to be undertaken by the Community for the sustained development of the global coconut sector.

The countries are represented at the Session by the Honourable Ministers of Agriculture/Trade/Commerce, Plenipotentiary Delegates authorized by the National Governments and Senior Officials from the concerned Ministries.

The three day long 57th ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting conducted virtually from 26th -28th October. The Government of Papua New Guinea held the Chair of International Coconut Community (ICC) for the CY 2020-2021 and was host for the 57th ICC Session & Ministerial Meeting. For the second time continuously Session & Ministerial Meeting convened virtually amid Covid-19 pandemic.

The inauguration is an Official Opening Ceremony and was organized by the host Government of Papua New Guinea. Mr. Alan Aku, Managing Director, Kokonas Industri Koporesen delivered the Greeting Remarks followed by The National Anthem of Papua New Guinea and Prayer of Thanksgiving by Reverend Walter Kaumi.

Hon. Mr. John Simon, M.P, ICC Chair & Minister of Agriculture & Livestock, Government of Papua New Guinea welcomed the delegates and official opening of the session was done by Hon. James Marape, M.P., Prime Minister Independent State of Papua New Guinea as Chief Guest. Introductory Remarks delivered by Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director, ICC. She mentioned that this pandemic reminds us how we can use this turning point into history, not only to recover from the pandemic, but how we can build forward better.

The 57th ICC Session & Ministerial Meeting was attended by National Ministers from host country Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. Delegates and participants included Senior Government Officials of ICC member countries and Official Observers from the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI), The Pacific Community (SPC), Centre de Investigacion Cientifica de Yucatan (CICY), Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), French Agricultural Research

Centre for International Development (CIRAD), International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food & Agriculture (ITPGRFA), Bioversity International, Non Aligned Movement Centre for South South Technical Cooperation (NAM CSSTC) and International Trade Centre(ITC). The Governments of Guyana, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Vanuatu and Vietnam were not represented. A total of 87 participants registered for the Session.

Country Papers- Gateway for Exchanging Ideas and Programs

The session meeting started with the Country paper presentation by member countries gave a brief update on the policies and programs for coconut development undertaken by National Governments including the legislations to promote the development of the sector. The delegates presented the status of coconut production, processing and export in their countries. Presented the updates on the coconut replanting, new planting and rehabilitation programs. The status of the research and development activities , policies and programs implemented in the country to enhance farm productivity and increase the farmers income were also shared with the member country delegates. The constraints faced by the sector and suggested road map for the way forward for the coconut sector were briefed by the delegates besides impact of Covid-19 on the coconut industry. The country papers helped in understanding the developmental activities undertaken by the countries and helps to identify the replicable models for customised implementation in other countries. It also helped in exchange of ideas and technology and paved way for possible collaborations between member countries.

Observer Organizations

The International partner organisations attended and presented the nature and extent of their involvement in the Coconut sector with reference to collaboration with community are Bioversity International; Centre de Investigation

Cientifica de Yucatan (CICY); French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD); CAB International (CABI); The Pacific Community (SPC), Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food & Agriculture (ITPGRFA), Non Aligned Movement Centre for South South Technical Cooperation(NAM CSSTC) and International Trade Centre(ITC).

The other agendas discussed were ICC Annual Report which included highlights of 2020, update of activities of 2021 . The report was presented by Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director with the global scenario of Coconut . The Session also discussed the various programs and projects proposed to be undertaken by ICC during CY 2022.

During the year 2020 and 2021, amid COVID-19 pandemic, ICC's activities as planned could not be implemented physically. All the major ICC program, including the 49th International COCOTECH Conference & Exhibition, IPM Symposium, International Certificate Course for Coconut Development Officers, have postponed to the year 2021, and have been conducted virtually. Despite the Pandemic situation, ICC managed to conduct several webinars, workshops, online training program in collaboration with NAM-CSSTC, CRI and ITC.

International COCOTECH Conference

Theme and Venue for the 50th International COCOTECH Conference was approved by the Session. The proposed theme of the Conference is ***"Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy for a Resilient and Sustainable Coconut Agroindustry"*** and the Conference during 2022 would be hosted by Government of Malaysia.

The new structure of Technical Working Group and revised Terms of Reference also endorsed by the Session. Mr. Benjamin Madrigal appointed as the new chair of the TWG. (ICC News)

₹30 CRORE FIVE-YEAR PLAN TO REVIVE COCONUT CULTIVATION

Agriculture Minister Kurasala Kannababu announced that the State government has prepared a five-year plan to revive coconut cultivation by spending ₹30 crore in Andhra Pradesh. The plan will be unveiled soon, he said.

In September, Mr. Kannababu and Horticulture scientists reviewed the possibilities to find timely solutions to various challenges being faced by the coconut farmers, mostly in the Konaseema region, during the closing ceremony of the Coconut Year 2020-21 held at Horticulture Research Station (HRS-Ambajipeta) in East Godavari district.

Mr. Kannababu said that the five-year plan to revive the coconut cultivation would fund ₹30 crore. "The scientific research on the Ragose Spiralling Whitefly (RSW) disease and better crop management practices are the thrust areas of the plan," said Mr. Kannababu.

"The five-year plan will also encourage the inter-crops to be grown in the coconut orchards to explore the possibilities for additional revenue in the Konaseema region. Cocoa is the prime intercrop targeted to be promoted as part of the plan," said Mr. Kannababu.

In Andhra Pradesh, the total extent of land under coconut is above 1.5 lakh hectares including 54,000 hectares in the Konaseema region which comprises 16 mandals in East Godavari district. (*The Hindu*)

THIS PHILIPPINES STARTUP IS MAKING COOLERS OUT OF COCONUTS

Cheap to make, water-resistant and insulating, foamed polystyrene is the go-to material for packaging in markets and food stores around the globe.

But it also breaks apart easily, and the same qualities that make it excellent for keeping food

fresh and cool also make it particularly bad for marine ecosystems.

That's why one Philippines-based startup has been working on an affordable alternative that it says is better for the environment, and for food producers working within tight profit margins.

Fortuna Cools, founded in 2018 by a pair of Stanford University students, saw an opportunity to use another abundant source of waste in the Philippines: coconut husks.

The Philippines is one of the top producers of coconuts and coconut products in the world, and every year, an estimated 9 billion husks are burned or left in the field, where they can take years to biodegrade.

This durability gives the coconut husks some of the same insulating properties as polystyrene, says Julius Bucatora, operations manager of Fortuna Cools.

Working with Coco Technologies Corporation, the startup developed technology to turn the coconut husks into insulated coolers. First, the husks are broken down into fibers, air-dried, and then pressed into thick boards that make up the box lid and sides.

These coconut boxes are a double win, as it provides extra income to the 30 local coconut farmers it works with, says Bucatora. Each box costs around \$20, according to the company — around two to three times the price of polystyrene coolers — but the company says the box lasts for up to a year and will pay for itself in the first three months. (*Edition CNN*)

'HI JAPAN' TRADE EXHIBITION PROMOTES SRI LANKAN COCONUT PRODUCTS

Ambassador and the Mission staff participated at the "HI Japan" Trade Exhibition Sri Lanka booth that was organized and promoted by the Sri Lanka Mission in Japan and funded by the Coconut Development Authority (CDA).

The Booth showcased a wide range of coconut related export products from 11 Companies in Sri Lanka. The product range included Coconut oil, virgin coconut oil, MCT Oil, Coconut flour, Desiccated coconut, Coconut chips, milk, milk powder, treacle, syrup and cream.

There were new products such as coconut vinegar, Amino, Coconut butter, sugar, Coconut water and king coconut water products that were showcased.

The booth received over 60 inquiries from potential Japanese buyers with the most popular products being Virgin coconut oil, Coconut flour and Desiccated coconut. Mission hopes to follow up on these leads and connect the exporters directly with prospective buyers through web meetings.

Mission also provides translation, transcriber services as well as check for packaging quality and conformity with Japanese regulations before shipping samples and brochures a service provided to all Sri Lankan exporters. *(Colombo Page)*

SELLING OVER 50,000 SAPLINGS EVERY YEAR, JOSEPH TURNS PROMOTER OF DWARF COCONUT TREES

Perumthotti native Joseph is known for selling most number of dwarf coconut trees in Idukki district. He sells over 50,000 dwarf coconut saplings across the state every year. The sales are approved by Horticulture Mission, Coconut Development Board and Agriculture Department.

The saplings are mainly sold in Idukki, Kottayam, Pathanamthitta, Ernakulam, Alappuzha and Thrissur districts. Gangabondam, Malaysian dwarf, Kuttiady and DxT are the major varieties he sells. Joseph has been engaging in farming for over five decades ever since he migrated from Pala to Thopramkudy.

Joseph is known as the promoter of Malaysian dwarf coconut trees. This is mainly because the saplings he sells start bearing fruits from the third year of planting if maintained well. Many farmers approach him for coconut saplings. He has started producing saplings in a nursery at Moolamattam.

The seed brought from a farm in Pollachi is used for developing saplings. Farmers are of the opinion that the saplings bought from Joseph's nursery have never failed to give a good yield. Almost 200 coconuts are harvested from the trees every year and the yield remains the same every year.

The varieties like Gangabondam and Malayan green are in huge demand. Gangabondam gives upto 50 coconuts in a bunch. As Coconut Development Board has approved the nursery of Joseph, a subsidy of Rs 90 is offered to the saplings.

The 2.5-acre plantation of Joseph is a paradise of different crops like Mangala areca nut palms, Chandragiri coffee, Karimunda, Panniyur Munda, Neelamundi and Kottandan pepper varieties and Murikkassery cocoa. *(Mathrubhumi)*

DOST, PCA PRODUCE EX-VITRO PLANTLETS OF TALL, DWARF, HYBRID COCONUT VARIETIES

The Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD) and research centers of the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) in Zamboanga and Albay have successfully produced ex-vitro plantlets of tall, dwarf and hybrid coconut varieties.

The production of the ex-vitro plantlets of the coconut varieties was made through the Coconut Somatic Embryogenesis Technology (CSET).

DOST Secretary Fortunato "Boy" T. de la Peña said the PCA-Zamboanga Research Center

(PCA-ZRC) and the PCA-Albay Research Center (PCA-ARC) are currently implementing two off-shoot projects of the CSET program.

The projects are entitled “Propagation of Quality Planting Materials of Baybay Tall (BAYT), Laguna Tall (LAGT), and Tacunan Dwarf (TACD) Coconut Varieties through CSET” and “Propagation of Quality Planting Materials of Selected Tall, Dwarf, and Hybrid Coconut Varieties through CSET”.

“The projects aim to produce quality planting materials of selected coconut varieties and increase the regeneration efficiency of the PCA-Albay Research Center CSET protocol,” the DOST chief said.

He cited that in the first year of the project implementation, the two PCA Centers were able to maintain 22,198 somatic embryos, 487 regenerants, and 55 ex vitro plantlets in the nursery ready for field planting from different tall, dwarf and hybrid coconut varieties.

“In addition, PCA-Zamboanga Research Center was also able to upgrade its tissue culture facilities to accommodate the cultures from the UP Los Baños. A total of 5,345 somatic embryos and 71 shootlets of LAGT and TACD are being maintained in PCA-ZRC.”

He said modifications on the ex-vitro transfer protocol are underway to increase survival rate of both fully developed and immature plantlets. (*Manila Bulletin*)

COCONUT, CASHEW NUT FACTORIES TO BENEFIT KILIFI FARMERS

The coconut and cashew nut sub sectors in Kilifi County are set for revival following the proposed construction of three factories to process their products.

Kilifi Governor Amason Kingi said two factories were already being constructed to process cashew nuts, while the foundation

stone for the construction of a coconut plant will be laid soon through the World Bank-funded National Agricultural and Rural Inclusive Growth Project (NARIGP).

The governor said the cashew nut factories were being built in Vipingo and Kakanjuni areas, while the coconut processing plant will be constructed in Mwawesa ward of Rabai constituency.

He said the construction of the three factories would revive the economy of Kilifi County, which had gone down following the collapse of the Kilifi Cashew Nut Factory and lack of a factory for coconut products.

Kingi was speaking at his office during the issuance of cheques amounting to Sh86,750,000 to fund micro projects to 275 farmer groups in phase two of the NARIGP.

Mr. Kingi urged the residents of Kilifi County to aggressively start the growing of the two cash crops in order to provide raw materials for the factories and thus turn around the economy and livelihoods of the devolved unit.

He urged cashew nut farmers to start pruning their old trees and plant new ones, noting that once the construction of the factories is complete, the demand for cashew nuts will increase.

“A visionary farmer will start preparing themselves by planting cashew nut trees and pruning the old trees in order to improve yields.

The governor said that coconut palm wine generates about Sh438 million annually and said the setting up of the proposed coconut plant would increase the yields since more coconut products will be processed.

“At the moment, Kilifi County gets Sh1.2 million daily from palm wine only without taking into account the other numerous coconut products. With the construction of the coconut factory, coconuts will be the economic mainstay

of Kilifi County and the Coast region in general," he said.

The governor at the same time urged farmers to diversify their food and cash crops in order to survive under the harsh climatic conditions caused by global warming.

The governor noted NARIGP (World Bank-funded project) had focused on the coconut, poultry, dairy and beef sub sectors and that the pilot projects had proved that the county had a great potential for agri-business.

The Kilifi County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Development, Dr. Luciana Sanzua, said 714 farmers groups in the county had received Sh261 million under NARIGP.

The project, she said, was aimed at improving productivity in the dairy, poultry, coconut and honey value chains.

Farmers interviewed said they were elated by the project, noting that it had enabled them engage in modern technologies in the four value chains and thanked the county government and the World Bank for funding it. *(Kenya News)*

REPLANTING OF COCONUT A PRIORITY FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Kokonas Indastri Koporesen Managing Director Alan Aku told this paper yesterday that the 57th session was encouraging for Papua New Guinea (PNG) to see every member country starting to replant coconuts.

Mr. Aku said for PNG, 50 per cent of the coconut trees around the country are senile and have lived out their productive lives hence the industry has joined the region in replanting coconuts.

He said between 2018 and 2020 they have planted 1369 trees in the field with an estimated

current coconut area of 221,000 hectares over the last three years.

"The meeting covers a lot of things, we share experiences and strategies from different countries on addressing pest and diseases issues, senility issues on coconuts being senile.

"The take from this conference is, other countries are moving forward and we look at their strategies and say okay, maybe we should reorganise ourselves and do it like this," he said. "The encouraging thing about all the member countries is that everybody has reported that they have started replanting, whether its conventional way, micro propagation, it does not matter, and everybody is beginning of replant.

"That's the PNG declaration, the coconut replanting."

Mr. Aku said the demand for coconut remains high with production low in all the countries hence the replanting program. *(Post-Courier)*

PRICE OF TENDER COCONUTS INCREASES IN GAUTAM BUDH NAGAR

The rise in dengue cases in Gautam Budh Nagar has led to an increase in demand and price of tender coconuts. The price of the fruit has gone up by ₹15 to ₹20 in the last one month.

According to sellers, a piece of tender coconut that was being sold at ₹50-55 till third week of September is now available for ₹65-70 in the district.

Dinkar Pandey, who sells tender coconuts near Sector 62's D-Park, said that the demand for the fruit has increased in the past few weeks. "There has been a surge in sales at my stall. I have been selling at least 60 coconuts a day for the past two-three weeks as against about 40 coconuts earlier. With demand increasing, prices have also increased," said Pandey, who was selling a tender coconut for ₹65.

Some vendors from the Sector 21-22 crossing have shifted to areas near the district hospital and the Child PGI Hospital.

“Business is better near hospitals these days as dengue cases are rising. Most of the customers here buy five-six tender coconuts at a time,” said Prakash Yadav, a coconut seller near Child PGI Hospital who was selling tender coconut water for ₹70.

According to traders at the wholesale fruit and vegetable market in Noida’s Phase 2, there has been a rise in demand for tender coconuts in the past three weeks.

“Tender coconuts were being sold for ₹40-45 apiece till September. However, the prices have now increased to ₹60-65,” said Imrana Ahmed, general secretary, Noida Fal-Sabji Mandi Association.

Ahmed also said that the rise in diesel prices has also added to the increase in the fruit’s rates. “One month ago, the transportation cost of a fruit truck from Azadpur mandi to Noida mandi was ₹1,000, which has now increased to ₹1,200. This has also led to a slight increase in the prices of some fruits,” she said.

Meanwhile, with 17 new dengue cases reported in the district, the tally of such cases has reached 210, according to data from the district health department. “The cumulative cases of dengue in the district stand at 210, with 28 active cases being treated at various hospitals,” said Dr Sunil Kumar Sharma, chief medical officer, Gautam Budh Nagar.

Medical experts say coconut water is beneficial for dengue patients as it helps keep the body hydrated.

“When a patient is diagnosed with dengue, there are chances of their blood thickening and in children, there is a risk of blood clotting if fluid intake is less. Hence, doctors recommend consuming large quantities of fluids, and

coconut water plays a significant role as it is filled with antioxidants and micronutrients,” said Dr DK Gupta, chairman, Felix Hospital, Noida Sector 137.

Ayurvedic doctors also recommend coconut water for dengue patients. “On the onset of dengue fever or viral fever, coconut water is recommended for patients as it contains high amounts of electrolytes to keep the patient nourished and hydrated,” said Dr Partap Chauhan, director, Jiva Ayurveda. (*Hindustan Times*)

PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY LABORATORY GETS ISO/IEC ACCREDITATION

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) Laboratory Services Division has been granted accreditation by the Philippine Accreditation Bureau (PAB) based on PNS ISO/IEC 17025:2017 in the fields of Biological and Chemical Testing. Two ladies at PCA led the efforts to develop and get the accreditation of the laboratory management systems namely, Ms. Erlene Manohar, former Deputy Administrator for Research and Development, and Ms. Maria Celia Raquepo, Laboratory Services Division Chief. This is part of the agency’s commitment to provide better service to stakeholders. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

RODY GIVES PCA SYMBOLIC COPY OF COCO TRUST FUND

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte handed a copy of the Certificate of Republic Act 11524 or the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act to Benjamin Madrigal Jr., administrator of the Philippine Coconut Authority.

In a ceremony, Senator Cynthia A. Villar handed the certificate to the President who then passed it to the PCA.

Duterte was in Lucena City for the joint National Task Force-Regional Task Force to End

Local Communist Armed Conflict IV-A (NTF-ELAC) meeting.

Villar, the chairperson of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food, said she is thankful to the President for the passage of the law that would be a big push to reach our goal of uplifting the lives of 3.5 million Filipino coconut farmers from 68 coconut-producing provinces.

“The coconut trust fund belongs to our coconut farmers and their families. With the provision of scholarships for our coconut farmers and their children, an annual allocation of 8 percent, and 10 percent for health and medical programs on top of Philhealth coverage, I am confident this will improve the quality of lives of our coconut farmers,” said Villar.

Continuous education and improving one’s knowledge of new technology on production and post-production of coconut, Villar said, is also supported under the law, with an allocation of 8 percent of the budget that would be implemented by government agencies for training.

With the Coconut Industry Trust Fund Act, Villar also hopes to resolve the many issues blocking the full growth of the coconut industry.

“Aside from alleviation of poverty, the Coconut Industry Trust Fund Act, along with the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan, can provide the direction for the government to achieve increased incomes and social equality for our farmer,” noted Villar.

Under the law, the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan will be crafted by the PCA. It stated that the plan will “set the directions and policies for the development and rehabilitation of the coconut industry within 50 years.”

The law mandates the Bureau of Treasury to infuse P10 billion to the trust fund in the first year, P10 billion in the second year, P15 billion

in the third year, P15 billion in the fourth year; and P25 billion during the fifth year.

The government started collecting the coco levy funds from coconut farmers in 1971 through levies, taxes, charges, and other fees imposed with the sale of copra rececada. Aside from coconut farmers, the funds were collected from millers, refiners, processors, exporters, and copra end-users.

In 2012, the Supreme Court ruled that the coco levy funds were publicly-owned, prompting the government to craft ways on how to develop the coconut industry using multibillion assets. (*Manila Standard*)

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KERALA LAUNCHES KALPA GANGA YOJANA

With an aim to protect native varieties of coconuts, the Central University of Kerala has launched Kalpa Ganga Yojana.

The project was inaugurated by Suresh Gopi, MP, who is also a Coconut Development Board member. As part of the project, unique coconut varieties of Kerala will be planted on the university premises.

Inaugurating the event, the MP pointed out that coconut conservation would help revive the economy of Kerala. He also requested the support of the student and teacher community for the Smriti Keram coconut tree planting project.

In his welcome address, Vice Chancellor Prof. H. Venkateshwarlu said that the Central University of Kerala was expanding its activities beyond the walls of the varsity.

Apart from academic activities, the university was also focussing on other areas that were beneficial to Kasaragod and Kerala.

Rajendra Pilankatta, Registrar-in-Charge, delivered the vote of thanks. The Kalpa Ganga Yojana is being implemented under the leadership

of the Campus Development Committee and the Cultivation Committee. (*The Hindu*)

NUT CRAFTER OF ALIBAUG: A FACTORY TECHNICIAN, WHO FASHIONS ART OBJECTS OUT OF COCONUT WASTE

Vijayanand Shembekar is a senior technician, who works at a chemical and fertiliser factory in Alibaug, Maharashtra. But for a peep inside his home and illustrious work, this down-to-earth 60-year-old man might come across as just another face in the crowd content with working in shifts.

So what is so unique about Shembekar's two-storied house in the picturesque coastal town, abutting the biodiverse Western Ghats?

He has converted its first floor into an art gallery called Ashirwad Kala Dalan, which contains over 400 artefacts, all repurposed by him from coconut waste. "Every exhibit is handcrafted by me out of discarded coconut shells," he says. From working vehicular models to lamps, and chains to stands of the gallery stanchions, each piece is made of discarded coconut shells—collected and chiselled to perfection and precision, over the last two decades.

Apart from gathering coconut waste from his surroundings where the drupe is widely used in local cuisine, he brings back discarded coconut shells of various sizes and shapes from his travels. And Shembekar even has his favourites. "I prefer the coconut shells of the Andamans. They are easy to work on," he explains.

Shembekar firmly believes that no two coconut shells are the same—be it in size or shape, which makes every artefact in his gallery unique. He spends close to two to three hours crafting each piece, and sometimes more depending on the quality of the coconut shell.

His latest instrument is an old sewing machine, which he has customised to do the cutting and smoothing of coconut shells.

However, most of his earlier works were crafted by hand, using a small saw and knife. It wasn't always like this for Shembekar.

As a youngster, he had dabbled in various mediums to channelise his creativity. However, when he was in his mid-20s, he started thinking of reusing waste in some manner and trying something quirky. But, unlike one of his colleagues who chiselled art pieces out of chalk pieces, he was lost as to what material to pick up. It was only two decades later that he could put his idea to regular practice.

"A friend then suggested that I choose one medium of waste, instead of spreading myself thin," Shembekar says. "As coconut trees are abundantly available in this region, I stuck to the coconut shell, and have never looked back since then." His very first piece was a lotus. Next were a flower basket and a jewellery box.

Thus was born his collection, which was opened for the public in 2011. Shembekar's home is now a one-of-a-kind pit stop for children, art enthusiasts and tourists visiting Alibaug. The exhibits aren't for sale, and neither has he monetised his hobby. "I am doing this out of pure passion for art and craft, and to repurpose waste. So there is no entry fee for visitors." However, visitors are free to drop money in the donation box—40 percent of which goes to a centre for disabled children in Raigad. The Shembekar family spends their weekends at the centre.

Of late, he spends more time with disabled children and pursues other interests like yoga—a reason why he has crafted just 20 pieces in the last two years. Shembekar also teaches youngsters and art enthusiasts of Alibaug the nitty-gritty of the craft and encourages them to sell their creations online. He also motivates them to repurpose waste and contribute to the environment from a young age.

"I regret starting this hobby in my 40s," Shembekar says. "If I had started earlier, I would have completed a thousand exhibits

and repurposed many more." (*The New Indian Express*)

SUCCESSFUL TRAINING ON COCONUT OIL

Forty men and women from the seven village communities within the Motuna-Huyono Tokunutui constituency in Siwai district, South Bougainville are beneficiaries of the life-long skills of Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO) production.

Not only were VCO production courses offered, but also trainings and awareness drive on turmeric, turkey tail, cocoa powder, black pepper, and white pepper powder production.

Added to that, participants were also informed of the health benefits of these products.

The course was run by the award winning DJ Organics led by owner Delwin Ketsian who traveled from Arawa to Siwai to conduct the training.

A local non-government organisation, Kainake Project in partnership with Pure Bougainville, a village-based Agriculture MSME thanked and showed their appreciation to Delwin Ketsian and her team from DJ Organics for running and concluding the skills-based training for their community.

According to Jeffery Noro of the Kainake Project, the 40 participants were privileged to take the training as it will help them to make some money to help sustain their livelihoods going forward.

"That is how communities should evolve and integrate.

"For sustainability and to ensure we turn this into a marketable commodity, we are now encouraging the trainees to sell their VCO products to us for packaging and sale through our established and also new supply chains," Mr Noro said.

"We wholeheartedly acknowledge Bread-for-the-World who provided infrastructural support in the development of our Food Processing Centre that will become the business development center for food-based products.

"We also thank the Regional Member for Bougainville Peter Tsiamalili for his ongoing support for agriculture and nature-based solutions as being critical to improving the wellbeing of rural communities.

"His ICT investment will go a long way in building supply chains.

"This will be our final community activity for the year as we scale down activities due to COVID-19.

"We didn't manage to get participants' masks because there were none in stock at the Pharmacy in Arawa – just highlighting some of the challenges of our current times," Mr Noro said. (*Post-Courier*)

PINTEREST-INSPIRED: LOCAL SPECIALTY SHOP PROMOTES SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH COCONUT BOWLS

Coconut shells (or *bao ng niyog*) used as bowls have been a popular sight on Instagram and Pinterest feeds. The dark brown bowl beautifully highlights colorful fruit smoothies and vegetable salads in photos. Those trendy images were the same thing that piqued Regine Faundo interest in the eco-friendly bowls.

"I saw some coconut bowls while browsing Pinterest, which I thought was very interesting," she shared in an interview.

As someone who loves making mealtimes "extra", Faundo looked for a shop that sold food safe coconut bowls here in Metro Manila but found none. "That was when we decided to start the business."

How It Started

Together with Raian Magtaan, Faundo launched Coconut Bowls PH under De Lokal Specialty Shop in June 2020.

More than offering trendy bowls or Instagram props, Coconut Bowls PH aspires to contribute positive change to the environment. It supports local farmers by offering handcrafted coconut bowls and coconut plates and naturally made wheat straws and utensils made from ebony wood.

“We support farmers by buying their products according to the price they set,” the cofounders said.

Their products are eco-friendly and can be composted so no waste will be left behind.

Since it was the first time for both Faundo and Magtaan to start a business, the two agreed to “make it right”.

“Coconut Bowls PH primarily focuses on sustainability and being an inspiration to make a positive contribution to the society and the environment. It’s a brand with a purpose,” said Faundo.

A Brand with A Purpose

Since their products are non-consumable, there are days they don’t make a sale. But what keeps them satisfied is their purpose.

In addition to offering sustainable dinnerware and supporting farmers, Faundo and Magtaan use their brand to promote other products and businesses with the same principles.

“Ang ibang packaging namin at products ay galing sa small businesses with a purpose din,” they said.

The cofounders added, “Minsan nag-feature and nagpapa-giveaway kami ng other products like nito from @titonito.homedecors.

Instead of asking for free products, we support by buying them,”

They also use their platform to share tips on how to contribute to the protection and conservation of the environment.

Leading A Sustainable Lifestyle

Before purchasing any product with eco-friendly or sustainable tag, the Coconut Bowls PH founders emphasize that sustainability does not start with any kind of item but how an item, natural or otherwise, is utilized.

“Filipinos can lead a healthy and sustainable lifestyle sa pag-gamit ng mga bagay na meron na sila,” said Faundo.

Citing plastic food containers that “our mothers always keep” as an example, Faundo suggested, “pwede natin ito (plastic) gamitin until sa end life nito “. She said buying sustainable food storage solutions and throwing plastic containers that can still be reused defeats the purpose.

“Being sustainable is a long process – it starts from the things you already have and buying new products when only needed, to properly taking care of them and disposing of them,” she said.

“It’s being aware of your resource consumption and reducing unnecessary waste.”

Coconut Bowls PH’s products range from P149 to P549. They are also looking into carrying more food items from other brands on their website www.coconutbowlsph.com and Instagram account @cocobowls.ph. (Manila Standard)

TRADE NEWS

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

Market firmness continued but the rally was capped by week's end.

In Rotterdam market, trading in coconut oil slowed considerably with only four parcels reported changing hands, down from 11 last week. Paying level, however, was firm, crossing the \$2,000-mark at \$2,100-2,150/MT CIF compared to \$1,785-1,850/MT CIF a week ago and \$1,670-1,710/MT CIF two weeks ago. Market opened strongly with offers at \$1,870-1,950/MT CIF for positions from October/November through to May/June 2022 and continued the upswing tracking firm palm oil and soybean oil prices to reach a high of \$2,300 last seen in February 2011. The rally ceased by week's end in step with weakened vegetable oils market. Closing values stood at \$2,045-2,190/MT CIF.

Palm kernel oil likewise slowed activity with six trades reported, compared to nine last week, concluded at \$1,810-2,080/MT CIF. This is comparatively higher than week-ago at \$1,670-1,760/MT CIF and \$1,595-1,635/MT CIF two weeks ago. Opening values similarly were firm at \$1,810-1,900/MT CIF for positions from October/November through to February/March 2022 and continued the upward trek before closing in the downside following other vegetable oils. Levels at close were at \$1,902-2,065/MT CIF.

Changes this week in price premium of coconut oil vs. palm kernel oil per position were not consistent. Of note though was coconut oil at a discount vis-a-vis palm kernel oil in far deferred April/May position. Average spread further contracted at \$75.35/MT from last week at \$78.92. Spreads per position are shown following: October/November \$109.67 (\$75.00 last week); November/December \$80.85 (\$99.50); December/January 2022 \$88.50 (\$100.50); January/February \$72.00 (\$68.83); February/March \$116.17 (\$50.75); March/April

\$119.00 (new position), April/May -\$58.75 (new position).

At the CBOT soya complex market, soybean futures opened in the upside, continuing last week late gains. The rising momentum was fueled by USDA reports of higher export inspections at 2.3 million tons compared to week-ago at 1.7 million tons and higher petro-oil prices that provided spillover gain to soybean oil. Adding to the positive market sentiment were reports of slow pace of harvesting in the US that led farmers to hold selling newly harvested crops, and of rising global demand for vegetable oils. Lately, however, weakness prevailed affected by decline in petro-oil market, impacting on product soybean oil.

At the palm oil section, market extended last Friday's firmer close and rallied to hit new high during the week at \$1,405/MT CIF. Profit-taking though ensued after the rally, reversing the trend towards the weekend coupled with weaker soybean oil market. Earlier firmness was

supported by estimates of improved export from Malaysia tied to India's record palm oil import ahead of Diwali festival and the lowering of import duties on palm oil and other edible oils. Malaysia's depressing production outlook due to pandemic-induced labor shortages also helped propel prices.

Prices of lauric oils for nearest forward shipment further accelerated, more than doubling last week respective increments. Coconut oil shot up \$305.70 from week-ago at \$1,800 to \$2,105.70/MT CIF this week; palm kernel oil leaped \$299.85 from \$1,725.00 to \$2,024.85/MT CIF. Palm oil, however, fell \$20 from \$1,405 to \$1,385/MT CIF. As a result, the price premium of coconut oil over palm kernel oil widened from last week at \$75.00 to \$80.85/MT currently. By contrast, premium over palm oil radically rose from \$395.00 to \$720.70/MT. (UCAP Bulletin)

MARKET ROUND-UP OF COCONUT OIL

In Rotterdam coconut oil market, activity slowed but were concluded at above \$2,000 level. This included \$2,100 for afloat; \$2,100, \$2,150 for November/December; and \$2,120/MT CIF for January/February 2022. Market remained firm but by Friday ended in the downside with offers at \$2,190 for October/November; \$2,126.75 for November/December; \$2,095 for December/January; \$2,055 for January/February; \$2,050 for February/March; \$2,045 for March/April, April/May, and May/June; and \$2,100/MT CIF for June/July. Buyers retreated at close across all positions except January/February with bid at \$1,950/MT CIF.

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

COCONUTS IN HAINAN ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY AND PRICES SOAR

Hainan Province is known as the Hometown of Coconuts. The annual output of coconuts is about 300 million, accounting for 99% of the national output. How about coconut sales in Hainan during the National Day holiday? In Hainan Province, the price of coconuts ranges from 18 to 30 RMB per kg, which is slightly higher than the previous price of 14-16 RMB per kg. Some merchants said that when new-harvested coconuts come up next month, the price will come down.

Affected by the low temperature, drought, and less rain from the end of last year to the beginning of this year, the coconut production in Hainan Province has declined. This year, as diversified coconut products are launched one after another, the demand for coconuts has also risen sharply, and the supply of coconuts is somewhat in short supply. According to the coconut purchasers, the purchasers used to go to Guangzhou, Guangxi, and Vietnam to get the fruits. This year they came to Hainan

to buy the coconuts, and the demand is too great.

At present, the planting area of coconuts in Hainan is around 34,53 hectares, and the annual output is about 300 million. Facing the ever-increasing market demand, Hainan has also launched a series of measures to cultivate new varieties, promote the cultivation of fine varieties and cultivation methods, and further expand the coconut processing industry. It is estimated that by 2025, Hainan will achieve a total output value of 23 billion RMB in the coconut industry. *(Fresh Plaza)*

PH EYES TO BECOME CHINA'S TOP COCONUT SUPPLIER

The Philippines targets to become the top exporter of coconut products to China, next to other ASEAN countries like Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia.

The 2020 China Coconut Oil Import Source Countries Statistics as reported by the Embassy of the Philippines in Beijing, the Philippines ranked second largest coconut supplier to China, cornering 27 percent of total market share in the country.

During this period, the Philippines exported about 43,700 metric tons (MT) of coconut products in the world's second largest economy, which was valued at \$62.85 million.

Aside from the Philippines, China imports majority of its coconut products from Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia, which are the other four major countries that export coconuts to China.

"The Philippines could also become a dominant player in this area, as the country's young green coconut export had already gained access to China in 2019, while still maintaining the staple coconut products the country exports

such as: coconut water, coconut milk, coconut oil, virgin coconut oil, and coconut sugar,” the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) said.

China currently imports about 2.5 billion coconuts annually from Southeast Asia, largely as raw materials for processing. Demand of coconuts in China stands at 300 to 350 million coconuts per year, 90 percent of these are imported.

Meanwhile, coconut oil and crude coconut oil remain among top three products imported by the United States from the Philippines for three consecutive years, based on the latest Trade Statistics for International Business Development of the International Trade Centre (ITC).

According to the report, the Philippines supplies 60 percent of US imports of coconut oil and 73 percent of crude coconut oil.

The increase in demand for coconut products is largely based on the positive changes related to new US trade policies, market trends, as well as dietary guidelines relative to the coconut industry.

The growth of coconut consumption was also attributed to the removal of coconuts among food products that allegedly causing allergies among US consumers. *(Manila Bulletin)*

TRA VINH’S WAX COCONUT ENTERS AUSTRALIAN MARKET

The first batch of wax coconuts from the Mekong Delta province of Tra Vinh worth 70,000 AUD (52,620 USD) exported to Australia has sold out after a short time of marketing, according to the Vietnam Trade Office in Australia.

This is the first time fresh wax coconuts have been exported by air to the country, it noted, adding that this shipment is the result of the work of Hoa Uu Dam Trading and Service Co., Ltd, and the trade office in a programme to

develop trademarks and improve the value of Vietnamese agricultural products in Australia.

Previously, only a small amount of Tra Vinh waxy coconuts, mainly frozen ones, were exported to Australia, the trade office said.

Tra Vinh fresh waxed coconut is sold at a price tag of 30 to 35 AUD (about 22-26 USD) per coconut.

The trade office has conducted advertising campaigns on social networks, and also published publications to introduce this product and other Vietnamese fruits, with the aim of further promote the export of Tra Vinh waxed coconut in Australia.

Like durian, wax coconut met difficulties to make inroads into Australia before. The trade office is coordinating with Vietnamese enterprises to build Vietnamese fresh coconut brands in the market.

Red Dragon Co., Ltd has cooperated with the Australian importer 4waysfresh to export fresh coconuts from Vietnam to South Australia and Western Australia states in the coming time.

Meanwhile, the Mekong Import and Export Fresh Fruit Co.,Ltd is also urgently negotiating to ship two containers of Ben Tre fresh coconuts to Melbourne and Sydney, the office said. *(Vietnam Plus)*

OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

INDIA CUTS IMPORT DUTIES ON PALM OIL, OTHER EDIBLE OILS

The Indian government announced it has cut import taxes on crude and refined palm oil, soybean oil and sunflower oil effective October 14, 2021 to March 31, 2022. This was aimed at making the edible oils cheaper leading up to the forthcoming festive season and to curb high food inflation in the country.

With the duty cuts, the effective import duty on CPO declined from 24.75 percent to 8.25 percent, and the effective import duty on refined grades of palm oil fell from 35.75 percent to 19.25 percent. Import taxes were also reduced on soybean oil and sunflower oil to 5.5 percent which is lower than palm oil duties. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

INDONESIA PLANS TO STOP EXPORT OF CRUDE PALM OIL

Indonesian President Joko Widodo plans to stop export of crude palm oil (CPO) so that the commodity can be processed in the country into value-added derivative products, reported the Antara news in Jakarta. In his address to participants of the PPRA LXII and PPSA XXIII 2021 National Resilience Institute Program at Istana Negara, Jakarta, he said the country should be exporting cosmetics, butter, biodiesel and other derivatives instead of CPO.

He said Indonesia must have the courage to stop exporting raw materials, despite potential lawsuits to the World Trade Organization. The country must be prepared to face all obstacles in the process of downstream natural resources. He even asked his ranks to prepare international lawyers if Indonesia is sued for stopping export of raw materials. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

THE WORLD'S MOST CONSUMED EDIBLE OIL IS FACING A SUPPLY CRUNCH

Palm oil production in Malaysia is on course for its weakest showing in five years as planters grapple with the worst-ever labor shortage in the second-biggest grower, and the low yields are likely to last through March.

The country's output may slide below 18 million tons this year, according to Nageeb Wahab, chief executive at the Malaysian Palm Oil Association, a growers' group that represents 40% of palm plantations by area. That's a drop of

at least 6% from last year and the lowest annual volume since 2016.

Palm, the most consumed edible oil, has been a leading driver of this year's stunning rally in global vegetable oil markets. Lower supplies in Malaysia and a crop disaster in Canada, the top grower of canola, have coincided with pent-up demand as economies reopen. Palm oil has repeatedly notched fresh records, while canola climbed to an all-time high and soyoil hit a 13-year peak in May.

"Even before the pandemic we were already short of workers -- mainly harvesters -- but it was never this bad," Nageeb said by phone from Kuala Lumpur. "The shortage is becoming worse month by month. This is a historic crunch of workers and it's causing a multi-year shortfall in production.

Yields will taper down toward the year-end and will likely remain weak in the first quarter of 2022, Nageeb said. Production may improve in the second quarter, but on the condition that harvesters -- including the 32,000 foreign workers the government had approved -- are allowed to enter the country.

Moreover, the lack of skilled harvesters on estates have left fresh fruit bunches rotting on trees, preventing farmers from capitalizing on palm's record rally. It also means that they've "missed the boat" on the crop's high production months that usually run from August to October, Nageeb said.

"We never had that peak production this year because of the high crop losses," Nageeb said. The industry is losing around 20%-30% of potential production this year and will miss out on about 20 billion ringgit (\$4.8 billion) in revenue, or about double the amount last year.

Malaysia's Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob has offered a glimmer of hope on the labor shortage, saying Friday that the country will allow entry of fully-vaccinated migrant workers into the plantation industry on a case-by-case

basis, although the quota and arrival dates have not been decided.

The volatile mix of production issues, either because of the weather or coronavirus restrictions, and resurgent global demand mean the industry is in the midst of unprecedented times. "We're in uncharted waters because of historical high prices and price volatility," said Marcello Cultrera, an institutional sales manager and broker at Phillip Futures in Kuala Lumpur. (*Mint*)

MPOC TO FOCUS ON MIDDLE EAST REGION AS NEW EXPORT MARKET FOR MALAYSIAN PALM OIL

The Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC) is focusing on the Middle Eastern region as a potential major new export market for Malaysian palm oil and believes that its transfat free properties as well as cost advantages can give it an edge over the edible oils in the region. This should diversify Malaysian export markets beyond depending on its two current major markets China and India, MPOC CEO Datuk Dr. Wan Zawawi Wan Ismail revealed earlier this year.

In a recent MPOC virtual event focusing on palm oil trends and potential in the Middle East, Deputy CEO Belvinder Sron stressed this objective anew saying that the council was looking at developing the region further as a major export market. He cited last year oils and fats import in the region at over 6 million tons of which palm oil was 41%, providing a lot of potential for growth. One driving factor is a rising expectation for health and wellness, and along with it concern over trans-fats in food, where palm oil has the advantage being trans-fat free.

Malaysia exported some 2.5 million MT of palm oil and palm oil products to the Middle East in 2020, but this number is not a reflection of the norm, as imports were heavily influenced

by the impact of COVID-19 lockdowns in the region. Within the region, just five countries make up 86% of demand due to being the most populous and having the most established food industries. These are Turkey (35%), Iran (26%), Saudi Arabia (11%), Iraq (10%) and UAE (4%). (*UCAP Bulletin*)

HEALTH NEWS

DOCTOR DEVELOPS VCO-LAGUNDI SPRAY VS COVID-19

A 24-year-old doctor and coconut processing company executive has developed a combined virgin coconut oil (VCO) and lagundi mouth and nasal spray formula that can be a potent protection against – if not potential cure – for COVID-19.

Dr. Sterling Tiu, company doctor at his family's coconut processing business Tropicana Food Products Inc. based in San Pablo City, Laguna, said that the combination of lagundi and VCO addresses both the cough symptoms and viral replication issues in COVID-19 cases.

"We're in the process of applying for a patent," Tiu told The STAR in an exclusive interview over the weekend.

To come up with the potentially new patented product, Tiu had added lagundi to their company's patented VCO with menthol mouth spray and nasal spray which is enjoying phenomenal sales during the still persisting pandemic.

"We're gonna market it as C-Shield. It's still gonna be an all-natural product," Tiu, who earned his medical degree at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine and passed the board exams last November then took his oath in December at the age of 23, said.

"Basically the ingredients are all organic, but as far as certifying (it as organic), I do not think it's necessary," Tiu said, explaining that the mouth spray will be marketed as a cosmetic product.

The nasal spray, he admitted, will need approval from the Food and Drug Administration as a prophylactic.

Tiu pointed out that the results of separate clinical studies funded by the Department of Science and Technology on both lagundi and VCO as adjunct therapies for COVID-19 have successfully shown the efficacies of both in addressing respiratory difficulties and viral replication from mild to moderate cases of the coronavirus.

He pointed out that lagundi has already established its efficacy as a cough remedy.

"Because it is part of the 10 medicinal plants recommended by Department of Health, lagundi has been studied locally for its effects against cough, sipon (colds)... and many scientific studies has shown its good effects in relieving cough symptoms," Tiu said. "It reduces inflammation, it has antihistamine effects. It relieves cough, it suppresses cough."

And since the plant is readily available locally, they decided to add it for more efficacy to the spray.

"VCO, we know through recent studies last year, has been shown to prevent the disease from proceeding from mild to moderate or severe COVID, and also it has helped in the recovery of the mild to moderate COVID patients, to recover more quickly than the control (group) which did not receive virgin coconut oil," Tiu said.

"So with that in mind, we believe virgin coconut oil had helped in fighting the COVID virus," he said, stressing the importance of the spray's formulation "because the COVID virus replicates in the upper respiratory epithelium."

He said the product could be effective particularly against breakthrough infections.

"So, we wanted to have a product that helps to limit the viral replication in the upper respiratory tract, and thus, we have this new formulation," Tiu said. (*PhilStar Global*)

DOES VCO HELP REDUCE PROGRESSION OF COVID-19 SYMPTOMS?

Among the many possible treatments that scientists are studying to battle symptoms of COVID-19, virgin coconut oil (VCO) has been found effective in reducing and preventing the progression of symptoms as well as providing relief.

To help boost the immune system of Filipinos and those who are battling the virus, Coco Mama has launched its very own Organic Virgin Coconut Oil. To mark the timely introduction of this new product, the brand donated 500 bottles of Coco Mama Organic Virgin Coconut Oil to the local government unit of Manila City, to quarantine facilities and hospitals, for the use of COVID-19 patients and front liners in the city.

"We are grateful that we are in a position to help Filipinos in their fight against the COVID-19 virus," said Bryan Ligan, marketing director for emerging business at Century Pacific Food Inc., the company behind Coco Mama. "One of our goals in introducing this product is to help COVID -19 patients through a science-backed supplement that has been proven to boost the immune system and alleviate the symptoms of the virus."

Based on studies conducted by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (FNRI-DOST), virgin coconut oil supports faster recovery from signs and symptoms of COVID-19. An in vitro showed that lauric acid and monolaurin, compounds produced from VCO, decrease coronavirus count by 60 to 90 percent at low viral load. VCO may also strengthen the immune response against COVID-19.

“Through research and clinical trials on alternative treatments, we hope to lessen the burden of the health sector and Filipinos from COVID -19. With our current health crisis, it is vital that we trust and support science-backed solutions to beat COVID-19, especially virgin coconut oil, which is readily available,” said Dr. Fabian Dayrit who led the research in virgin coconut oil as an antiviral agent to prevent or reduce COVID-19 infection.

For COVID -19 patients in Manila, bottles of Coco Mama Organic Virgin Coconut Oil were handed over by Lingan to the LGU as well as to the COVID Field Hospital at Quirino Grandstand, Ospital ng Maynila, and the Santa Ana Hospital.

With the donation of its organic virgin coconut oil, Coco Mama is hoping to help patients with COVID-19 strengthen their immune systems as well as speed up their recovery. *(Manila Bulletin)*

COCONUT RECIPE

CREAMY VEGAN COCONUT BUTTERSCOTCH PUDDING WITH PECAN PIE CRUMBLE TOPPING

Butterscotch's toasty notes of caramelized sugar and molasses come through clearly in this recipe from the Little Pine cookbook. Pair with crunchy chocolate chip cookies or a chocolate drizzle for added sweetness.

What you need:

For the pudding:

1. 2½ cups coconut milk, divided
2. 4½ teaspoons cornstarch
3. 1¼ teaspoons vanilla extract
4. 1/8 teaspoon salt
5. 1 tablespoon vegan butter
6. 1 cup packed brown sugar

For the pecan crumble topping:

1. 1 cup flour

2. 1/3 cup firmly packed brown sugar
3. ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
4. ¼ cup ground nutmeg
5. ½ cup chopped pecans
6. ½ cup vegan butter, melted
7. ½ cup coconut whipped cream

What you do:

1. For the butterscotch pudding, in a small bowl, whisk 1¼ cups of coconut milk, cornstarch, vanilla, and salt to make a slurry.
2. In a medium pot over medium-low heat, melt butter. Add brown sugar, slowly stir in remaining coconut milk, and bring to a simmer. Slowly whisk in slurry and cook, stirring vigorously, until bubbling and thick. Remove from heat and let cool completely. Transfer pudding to an airtight container, press a layer of plastic wrap directly against surface of pudding, cover, and refrigerate for at least 8 hours.
3. For the pecan crumble topping, preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
4. In a medium bowl, combine flour, brown sugar, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Stir in pecans, then stir in melted butter. Spread mixture evenly over prepared baking sheet. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes, stirring every 5 minutes, until lightly browned. Let cool completely and store in an airtight container in refrigerator until ready to use.
5. Among four serving bowls, divide chilled butterscotch pudding. Crumble ¼ cup of pecan topping onto each bowl and top with a dollop of coconut whipped cream.

(VegNews)

STATISTICS

Table 3. SRI LANKA: Exports of Mattress, Bristle and Twisted Fibers, 2019-2021 (In MT)

Month	Mattress Fiber			Bristle Fiber			Twisted Fiber		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
January	3,123	7,141	4,832	117	127	112	2,784	3,225	3,475
February	3,739	2,812	6,810	175	61	232	3,270	2,164	2,359
March	3,883	3,794	10,169	167	103	135	4,315	1,259	2,125
April	2,989	4,640	5,475	114	68	88	2,809	1,894	1,415
May	4,559	4,947	6,432	80	157	113	2,763	2,366	1,404
June	4,321	6,402	6,333	126	99	157	2,578	2,979	1,608
July	6,289	8,202	6,953	104	84	204	2,952	3,440	1,855
August	5,601	7,129	5,111	88	103	185	2,949	2,814	1,230
September	4,649	6,443	6,757	141	115	126	2,529	2,643	1,631
October	4,112	7,514		100	121		2,317	2,997	
November	4,251	6,355		75	105		2,176	2,605	
December	4,372	6,225		146	87		2,108	2,347	
Total	51,888	71,604	58,872	1,433	1,231	1,352	33,550	30,733	17,102

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

Table 4. SRI LANKA: Monthly Export Prices of Mattress, Bristle and Twisted Fibers, 2019-2021 (US\$/MT, FOB Colombo)

Month	Mattress Fiber			Bristle Fiber			Twisted Fiber		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
January	273	244	253	1,633	1,421	1,308	377	317	305
February	267	259	250	1,384	1,240	1,398	369	306	301
March	268	228	251	1,639	1,467	1,263	341	337	359
April	260	244	254	1,549	1,369	1,125	325	273	359
May	259	248	256	2,040	1,379	1,119	321	297	376
June	256	244	265	1,771	1,377	1,432	340	313	362
July	242	239	282	1,534	1,586	1,197	310	306	381
August	259	236	268	1,538	1,529	1,446	307	304	398
September	242	235	256	1,679	1,266	1,271	337	329	432
October	241	243		1,462	1,450		341	302	
November	231	242		1,347	1,441		325	315	
December	240	249		1,754	1,395		315	336	
Average	253	243	260	1,611	1,410	1,286	334	311	355

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

Table 5. SRI LANKA: Exports of Yarn, Twine and Pith, 2019-2021 (In MT)

Month	Coir Yarn			Coir Twine			Fiber Pith		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
January	112	65	115	711	1,000	909	3,698	3,069	4,000
February	114	114	112	635	463	603	2,790	3,326	4,011
March	73	56	117	649	181	682	5,101	2,694	5,569
April	99	38	146	535	97	194	3,052	1,904	3,027
May	138	78	74	620	461	652	3,830	3,914	3,796
June	91	83	111	455	625	517	3,608	4,367	3,052
July	73	124	137	920	806	540	3,280	4,225	3,108
August	56	96	55	646	722	874	1,825	2,873	2,870
September	132	113	89	691	842	583	2,036	2,758	2,816
October	105	83		812	935		1,751	3,604	
November	125	111		974	647		1,815	2,864	
December	64	32		648	489		2,464	2,928	
Total	1,181	993	956	8,296	7,268	5,554	35,250	38,526	32,249

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

Table 6. SRI LANKA: Monthly Export Prices of Yarn, Twine and Pith, 2019-2021 (US\$/MT, FOB Colombo)

Month	Coir Yarn			Coir Twine			Fiber Pith		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
January	920	1,025	990	1,078	1,325	1,231	276	227	251
February	1,071	913	797	1,075	1,331	1,263	271	225	328
March	940	881	790	1,039	1,308	1,363	260	241	265
April	987	882	1,022	1,254	1,223	1,216	281	252	259
May	887	819	796	1,304	1,230	1,221	271	252	245
June	883	832	841	1,380	1,326	1,304	306	266	277
July	1,011	874	796	1,355	1,353	1,352	289	249	248
August	829	656	777	1,390	1,342	1,309	258	279	280
September	955	678	807	1,276	1,352	1,394	238	259	336
October	1,096	713		1,321	1,272		224	238	
November	908	932		1,319	1,318		239	253	
December	1,065	774		1,318	1,296		228	252	
Average	963	832	851	1,259	1,306	1,282	262	249	269

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

ICC PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR SALE

Sustainable Coconut Development through Climate Smart Agriculture, Product Innovation & Advancing Technologies - Proceedings of the 48th COCOTECH Conference & Exhibition, 2018

Price: US\$50



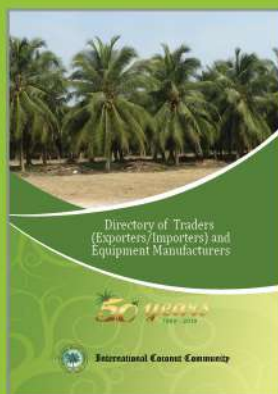
COCOINFO International Vol 27 No. 2, 2020 – A semi-annual, scientific and semi-technical based in order to disseminate useful information of the coconut sector, around the globe.

*Annual subscription price:
US\$50 (ICC Member Countries)
US\$60 (Non-Member Countries)*



Directory of Coconut Traders & Equipment Manufacturers

Price: US\$50



Coconut Statistical Yearbook 2018

*Price:
US\$50 (ICC Member Countries)
US\$60 (Non-Member Countries)*



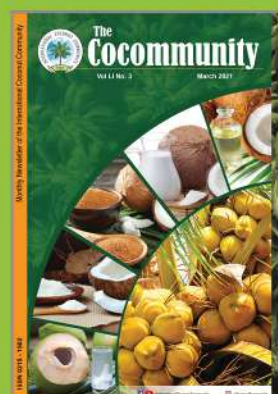
CORD Vol. 36, 2020 – An annual international journal on Coconut Research & Development

*Price:
US\$40 (ICC Member Countries)
US\$50 (Non-Member Countries)*



Cocommunity – Monthly newsletter of the International Coconut Community

*Annual subscription price:
US\$50 (ICC Member Countries)
US\$60 (Non-Member Countries)*



** All prices are excluded from shipping charges*

Order via website www.coconutcommunity.org or write e-mail to icc@coconutcommunity.org
Payment can be made by PayPal & wired bank transfer



Our Next Big Thing For Coconut Industry

ELEFANT SERIES HOMOGENISER



FEATURES

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



GOMA GROUP OF COMPANIES: MAJIWADA, THANE - MUMBAI (INDIA)

CONTACT: +91 93226 54235 / 6 / 2 | EMAIL ID: exports.ptc@goma.co.in | www.goma.co.in

India | Nepal | UAE | Sri Lanka | Malaysia | Egypt | Kenya | Ethiopia | Nigeria

DESICCATED COCONUT PROCESSING MACHINERY

"Over 100 machines in operation worldwide"



BAND DRYER (APRON/CONTINUOUS TRAY DRYER)

for Desiccated Coconut Granules, Chips & Toasted D/C

Output Capacity : 1000 to 2500 Kgs/hr.

Two Stage and Three Stage Dryers.

Apron width : 2640mm and 3250mm



COMBINATION DRYER

for Desiccated Coconut Granules, Chips,
Toasted D/C & Parings.

Output Capacity : 300 to 1000 Kgs/hr.



VIBRATORY FLUID BED DRYER

for Desiccated Coconut Granules & Parings.

Output Capacity : 300 to 1000 Kgs/hr.



GRINDER

Output Capacity:
1000Kgs/hr.



BLANCHER

Output Capacity :
1000 to 4000 Kgs/hr.



NOVATEX SCREENER/GRADER

Output Capacity :
1000 to 1500 Kgs/hr.



DESHELLING MAHINE

Output Capacity :
250 to 300 nuts/hr.



DEHUSKING MACHINE

Output Capacity :
1200 nuts/hr.



OIL EXPELLER



RADIATOR Extruded Fins or Plate Fins Type



STAINLESS STEEL PERFORATED APRON TRAYS

Width: 2640mm & 3250mm



STAINLESS STEEL CHAIN



GEMTECH PROJECTS LLP.

10/C, Middleton Row, 3rd Floor, Kolkata - 700 071, India

Tel: +91-33-2217 7328 (4 Lines) | Mobile: +91 9831173874, +91 9831131196 | Fax: +91-33-2217 7333

E-mail: info@coconutprojects.com | sg@gemforgings.com | www.coconutprojects.com

INTERNATIONAL COCONUT COMMUNITY
PO Box 1343
JAKARTA - INDONESIA

PRINTED MATTER

BY AIR MAIL

The **COCOMMUNITY** is the monthly Newsletter of the INTERNATIONAL COCONUT COMMUNITY (ICC) incorporating current news, features, statistical data, business opportunities, and market information relating to the world coconut industry.

Established in 1969, under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission 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.

The subscription rates for the *Cocommunity* inclusive of postage are: US\$50.00 per year for ICC member countries, US\$ 60.00 for non-ICC member countries.

For subscription, please write to:

INTERNATIONAL COCONUT COMMUNITY

8th Floor, Bappebti Building, Jl. Kramat Raya 172

Central Jakarta 10430, Indonesia

or P.O. Box 1343, Jakarta 10013, Indonesia

Phone : (62-21) 3100556-57

Fax : (62-21) 3101007

E-mail : icc@coconutcommunity.org or apcc@indo.net.id

www.coconutcommunity.org