The Cocommunity

Monthly Newsletter of the International Coconut Community

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International Coconut Community

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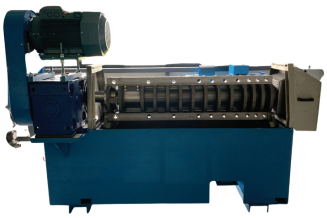

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPEAKS ...

"Reducing Setbacks and Accelerating Progress on Coconut Sustainable Development"

Before moving forward too far with our journey in 2021, it is worth looking backward to the year 2020 that we have elapsed. It's been one year since the pandemic has affected our lives. Many sectors have suffered globally. Retail, automotive, tourism, travel, and logistic industries are the most adversely affected sectors. This pandemic is also disrupting the global shipping supply chain. The shortage of shipping containers is causing increased freight rates.

Generally, the global market demand for coconut-based products is increasing. The outlook for coconut-based products including coconut oil is still prospective. A considerable increase in the Rotterdam price of coconut oil was in 2020 (US$1,015/MT) compared to 2019 (US$731/MT), a significant increase of 39%. However, shipment is delayed. Besides, most manufacturing industries have experienced a shortage of raw materials. Even though the Philippines, India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka have forecasted that annual production will increase in the second half of 2021, it is still not sufficient to fulfill the demand. The supply of raw materials for manufacturing industries was shrunk due to border restriction, curfew, low production due to senile palms, pests and diseases, and natural calamity.

We need to build forward better to enhance the resilience of the coconut sector. Unless we take immediate and strategic action to improve coconut productivity, we might risk coconut industries that have contributed to the country's economy before and during the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic.

It is hoping that the supply chain and shipping will be back to normal soon, and the increased coconut production, farm productivity, and farmer income become a high priority program in the National Development Plan and will be realized with close cooperation between the government, private sectors, alliances, and farmers. Coconut farmers and industries may perceive this pandemic as an opportunity to increase production through better good agricultural practices, integrated pests and disease management, operation management, and supply chain management, while at the same time it is the government's role to develop and improve the infrastructures and regulations.

Increased coconut production, farm productivity, and farmer income should become a high priority program in the National Development Plan, and it is hoped to be realized with close cooperation between the government, private sectors, alliances, and farmers. Investments in social services, digital access, and green development are also important during the pandemic and beyond to support sustainable development goals (SDGs).

DR. JELFINA C. ALOUW
Executive Director

PREVAILING MARKET PRICES OF SELECTED COCONUT PRODUCTS AND OILS

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

COPRA: The price of copra in Indonesia was US$835/MT in February 2021, which was higher than last month's price of US$834/MT. Compared to the same month of last year the price was US$ 342/MT higher.

In the domestic market of the Philippines (Manila), the price decreased by US$ 52/MT from US$936/MT to US$884/MT. The price was US$341/MT higher compared to the price of US$543/MT in February 2020.

COCONUT OIL: The average price of coconut oil in Europe (C.I.F. Rotterdam) for February 2021 went down by US$30/MT to US$1,433/MT from US$1,463/MT in January 2021. This price was higher by 64% when compared to the price in February 2020 at US$875/MT.

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

The FOB price of coconut oil in Indonesia in February 2021 scaled down by US$23/MT compared to the previous month from US$1,370/MT to US$1,347/MT. February 2021 price was US$507/MT higher than the price of the same month of 2020 which was US$840/MT.

COPRA MEAL: The average domestic price of the commodity in the Philippines at selling points was quoted at US$211/MT. The price was US$37/MT lower compared to the previous month and was US$13/MT lower than the last year price for the same month.

The average domestic price of copra meal in Indonesia was US$295/MT which was lower than previous month price. The price was US$58/MT higher than last year's price in the same month.

DESICCATED COCONUT: The average price of desiccated coconut (DC) FOB USA in February 2021 was US$2,528/MT, US$22/MT higher compared to the price in January 2021 and US$379/MT higher than the price of the same month last year.

In Sri Lanka, the domestic price of desiccated coconut in February 2021 was US$3,169/MT or US$85/MT higher than in January 2021. Meanwhile, the price of DC in the domestic market of Philippines in February 2021 was US$2,039/MT, was lower than price in January 2021 and US$638/MT higher than price in February 2020. Indonesian price of DC in February 2021 increased by US$120/MT and was higher compared to last year's price of US$2,050/MT.

COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL: In Philippines, the average price of the commodity in January 2021 was US$478/MT which was higher than previous month's price. Meanwhile, Indonesia's charcoal price decreased from US$654/MT in January 2021 to US$652/MT in February 2021. Moreover, compared to last year's price, the price was higher by US$56/MT. Sri Lankan's price in February 2021 was US$528/MT which was 37% higher than last year's price.

COIR FIBRE: Coir fiber was traded in the domestic market in Sri Lanka at US$116/MT for mix fiber and US$625/MT-US$833/MT for bristle. The Indonesian price for mixed raw fiber was US$308/MT in February 2021 which was lower US$5/MT than last year's price.

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

Products/Country	2021 Feb	2021 Jan	2020 Feb	2021 (Annual Ave.)
Dehusked Coconut				
Philippines (Domestic)	245	221	166	233
Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use)	210	227	144	218
Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use)	n.q.	n.q.	251	n.q.
India (Domestic Kerala)	679	699	603	689
Copra				
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	884	936	543	910
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	835	834	493	834
Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo)	1,612	1,507	1,283	1,559
India (Dom. Kochi)	1,884	1,777	1,530	1,831
Coconut Oil				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	1,433	1,463	875	1,448
Philippines (Domestic)	n.q.	n.q.	821	n.q.
Indonesia (Domestic)	1,347	1,370	840	1,359
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	2,671	2,673	2,214	2,672
India (Domestic, Kerala)	2,916	2,807	2,390	2,861
Desiccated Coconut				
Philippines FOB (US), Seller	2,528	2,506	2,149	2,517
Philippines (Domestic)	2,039	2,040	1,401	2,040
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	3,169	3,084	2,356	3,126
Indonesia (FOB)	2,350	2,230	2,050	2,290
India (Domestic)	2,496	2,382	2,239	2,439
Copra Meal Exp. Pel.				
Philippines (Domestic)	211	248	224	229
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	n.q	293	241	293
Indonesia (Domestic)	295	298	237	297
Coconut Shell Charcoal				
Philippines (Domestic), Buyer	478	440	327	459
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	528	478	386	503
Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer	652	654	596	653
India (Domestic)	600	558	405	579
Coir Fibre				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre)	116	111	154	113
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	625	526	523	576
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	833	878	843	855
Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre)	308	300	303	304
Other Oil				
Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	1,343	1,372	802	1,357
Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	1,017	990	729	1,004
Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill)	1,033	1,076	800	1,054

Exchange Rate

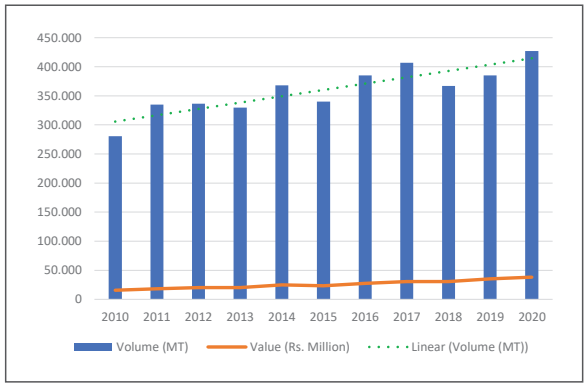
Feb 28, '21 1 US$ = P48.76 or Rp14,278 or India Rs73.63 or SL Rs194.44

1 Euro = US$1.21 n.q. = no quote

MARKET REVIEW OF COIR

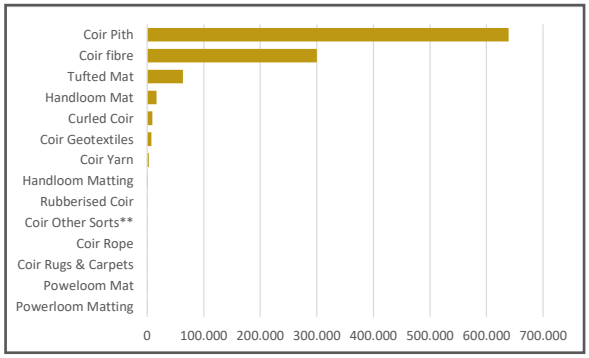
Amid global pandemic, coir industry showed a pertinent growth. Latest data from India and Sri Lanka, the main coir producing countries, confirm the impressive performance of the industry. The two countries experienced an increase in both export volume and export revenue. This is in continuation of the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

Figure 1. Export of Coir Products from Sri Lanka, 2010-2020



The latest report from Coir Board of India showed that the export of coir products from India during January-November 2020 was 1.04 million tons creating Rs. 311,267 lakh or around US$ 1.8 billion. The export volume is higher by 13 percent as compared to the same period last year. In terms of revenue, the export jumped by 22.6 percent against previous year's revenue. Amongst all coir products, global demand for coir

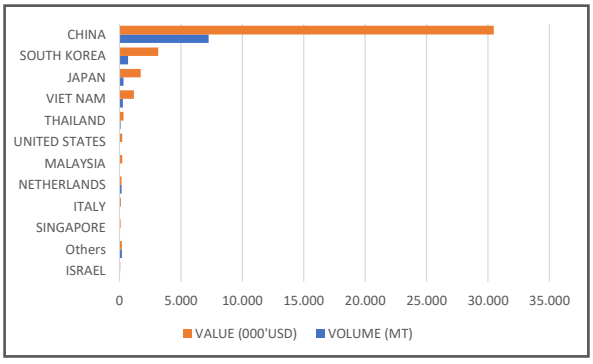
Figure 2. Export of Coir Products from India January-November 2020



pith was still recorded the highest. During the period 0.64 million tons of coir pith from India was sent to international market followed by coir fibre accounting for 0.3 million tons.

During January-December 2020, export volume of coir-based products from Indonesia reached 37,899 tons generating more than US$ 9 millions of export earnings. The total export volume is insignificantly lower by 0.1 percent compared to the same period in the previous year. However, in terms of value, the export dropped by 27% reflecting lower prices of the products. Coir fibre and coir pith are the main products exported from Indonesia. China is still the major destination for coir products from Indonesia. During the period, 80% out of the total coir export was sent to China. Other destinations include South Korea, Japan, and Vietnam.

Figure 2. Export of Coir Products from India January-November 2020



During January-December 2020, 14 coir-based products sent from Sri Lanka to the global market generating more than US$194.25 millions of export revenue or increased by 8.6% as compared to previous year's revenue. Moulded coir products which is used for mainly horticulture purpose were the country's highest contributor to the export revenue from coir based products for the period of January-December 2020. During the period, export value of moulded coir products was Rs. 25,126.31 million or equivalent to US$ 127.75 million, accounting for 66% of the total export value of coir based products. Compared to the previous year's value, export of the product was higher by 12%. Mexico remained the major importer of Sri Lanka's moulded coir products followed by USA, South Korea, and UK. Other products that significantly contributed to the export earnings were mattress fibre and coir pith.

In total, Price of coir fibre is showing relatively stable in Indonesia. During 2020, average FOB price of coir fibre in Indonesia was USD302/MT as compared to the average price a year earlier. Meanwhile, price of coir fibre in Sri Lanka showed a declining trend reaching US$107/MT in December 2020 with annual average of US$125/MT in 2020. The price in 2020 was 28% lower than the average price a year earlier. It is expected that the price will be going to stronger in 2021.In the last two months price has been going up by 8% from US$107/MT in December 2020 to US$116/MT in February 2021 reflecting a lower supply.

Figure 4. Export Earnings of Coir Products from Sri Lanka, January-December 2020 (Rs.million)

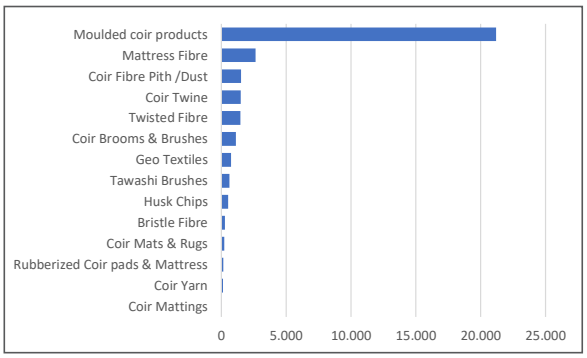
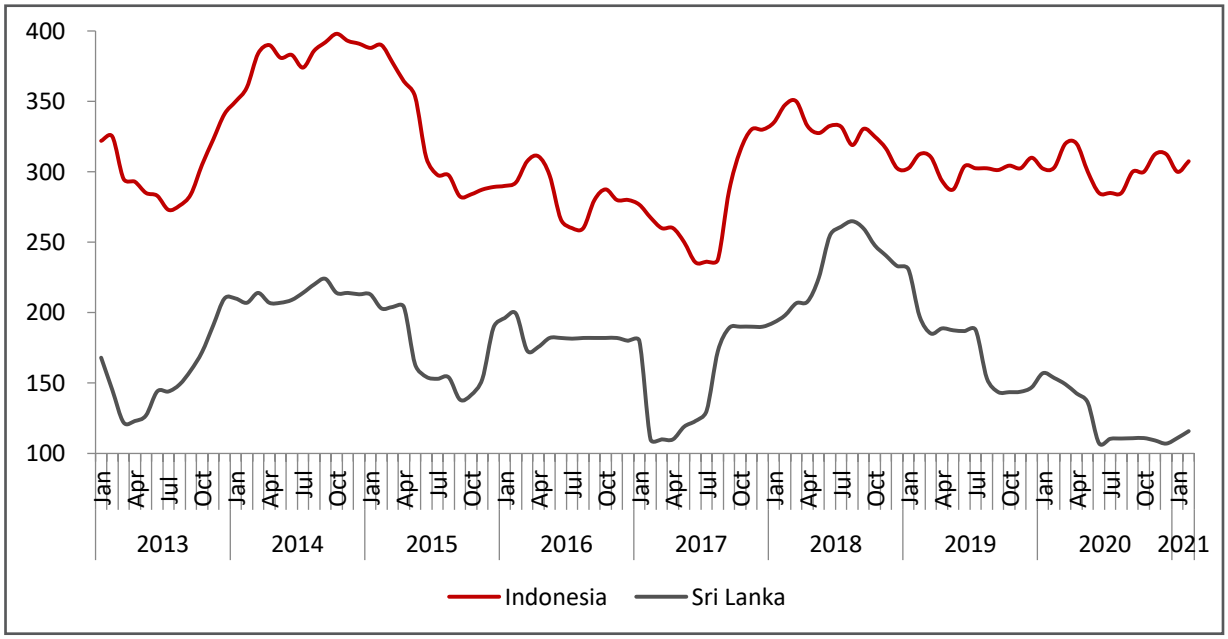


Figure 5. Average Monthly Price of Coir Fibre January 2013 – February 2021 (US$/MT)



COMMUNITY NEWS

STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ICC MEMBER COUNTRIES

A virtual coordination meeting between the ICC Secretariat and the Nuts and Oil Crops Directorate, Agriculture and Food Authority, Government of Kenya, was held on 3rd February 2022. This is part of the activities of ICC in Dialogue and Communications with National Liaison Officers (NLOs) of the ICC Member Countries.

The meeting was attended by Madam Rosemary Owino, Acting Director, Nuts and Oil Crops Directorate Agriculture and Food Authority, the NLO of ICC for the government of Kenya, along with Ms. Lily Chebet Kiptoo, Deputy Director, Technical and Advisory Services and Mr. Innocent Masira, Market Development Officer. The ICC Secretariat team was led by Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director, with Ms. Mridula Kottekate, Assistant Director; Mr. Klaudio Hosang, Administrative and Financial Officer; and Mr. Otniel Sintoro, Information and Publication Officer.

In her welcome remarks, Dr. Jelfina congratulated Madam Rosemary on her new task as the Acting Director of the Nuts and Oil Crops Directorate, Government of Kenya, and extended her sincere appreciation to Dr. Florence Kaibi the former NLO, and Ms. Lilly Chebet for her excellent support to ICC. She expressed that ICC has been so blessed with the involvement of Kenya in this community and looking forward to strengthening the relationship for the benefit of coconut farmers, industries, and other stakeholders as well as the country. Dr. Jelfina presented the Global Scenario of Coconut Sector, wherein she described the present status of the coconut sector, coconut market and production, country status, challenges, global export trend value and industries, outlook 2020-2025, ways forward and ICC programs and projects.

In her remarks, Madam Rosemary Owino, Acting Director of the Nuts and Oil Crops Directorate, Government of Kenya, appreciated the collaboration over the year with ICC programs where Kenya as a member country and benefitted optimally. She added there are many more to explore in the future as a part of the Community, especially to increase the production, productivity and value addition of the coconut sector. She is looking forward to meeting physically during the upcoming 50th International COCOTECH Conference at Kuala Lumpur, in October 2022.

Ms. Lily Chebet shared the latest development in the coconut sector in Kenya. Kenya has imported 12.00 coconut seeds from India for the hybridization and tissue culture program. Several SMEs also have come up a lot with production of VCO, and Kenya is looking forward to increasing more processing and value addition of coconut for which ICC's support and the collaboration gain its relevant context. She appreciated the international training course conducted by ICC-CRI in which two of the officers of Kenya trained and their service is well utilized at field level.

Mr. Innocent Masira, who participated in the Statistics workshop organized by ICC last year mentioned that this meeting was very enlightening and encouraging. He looks forward to the upcoming ICC capacity building and technology transfer trainings in 2022, to improve the coconut industry in Kenya.

The meeting was very productive and fruitful. Ms. Mridula Kottekate, Assistant Director, moderated the meeting. *(ICC News)*

ICC TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

The virtual meeting of ICC Technical Working Group (TWG) was held on 8 February 2022, under the chairmanship of Mr. Benjamin R. Madrigal, Jr., Administrator, Philippines Coconut Authority (PCA). The TWG's members attended are Dr. Vinesh Kumar (Permanent

Secretary, Agriculture Ministry of Agriculture, Fiji), Mr. Rajeev Bhushan Prasad (Chief Coconut Development Officer, Coconut Development Board, India), Dr. Lalith Perera (Additional Director, Coconut Research Institute, Sri Lanka), Dr. Millicent Wallace, (Director, Research Coconut Industry Board, Jamaica) and Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director, ICC. Participants in attendance were Dr. Rohit Lal, Senior Research Officer, Fiji, Mr. Shalendra Prasad, Chief Economist, Fiji, and Ms. Deepthi S. Nair Deputy Director-Marketing, Coconut Development Board, India. The ICC Secretariat attendees were Ms. Mridula Kottekate, Assistant Director; Mr. Alit Pirmansah, Marketing and Statistic Officer; Mr. Klaudio Hosang, Administration and Finance Officer, and Mr. Otniel Sintoro, Information and Publication Officer.

Dr. Jelfina Alouw, Executive Director, welcomed the Chair and members of ICC-TWG. She mentioned that the Technical Working Group is an ad hoc committee formed to support ICC in providing technical and policy guidance for formulating and implementing programs and projects. ICC has made a five- year strategic plan (2020-2024) based on inputs from TWG, SACH, stakeholders, and country reports and was approved by the ICC Session & Ministerial Meeting in 2019. However, due to continuous changing situation in the coconut sector, there is always a room for updates and improvements. Therefore, input from TWG is always needed. As the coconut sector has faced several challenges, the industry needs to develop a holistic research and development program. ICC has signed and executed agreements with several international institutions to support capacity building, research, and technology transfer. ICC always makes sure that the mutual benefits are in place and a positive impact of the agreements to the member countries.

Mr. Benjamin R. Madrigal, Jr., Administrator, PCA, and Chairman, ICC-TWG, presented on"Enhancing the Role of ICC in the Global Coconut Industry", wherein he briefed the overview of ICC objectives, mission and vision, gaps and challenges, possible areas for improvement, and proposed the integration of all efforts of the ICC for the strategy development. He concluded with the way ahead and the immediate actions of the ICC-TWG for the strategic mapping in alignment with 2022 ICC programs and projects.

Dr. Jelfina, Executive Director presented the challenges and opportunities and ICC's program and project for 2022 approved by the 57th ICC Session & Ministerial meeting. The presentation included the challenges on the Global Sustainable Coconut Sector and the potential to address those challenges through collaborative efforts among all stakeholders. The major program of ICC for 2022 are training of trainers, workshop on Good Agriculture Practices, 1st Integrated Pest Management Symposium, 2nd Tissue Culture Symposium & Training, harmonized quality standard of coconut products and International COCOTECH Conference & Exhibition.

There were in detail discussion and the members and chair shared their thoughts and views as well as suggestions for effective implementation of the programs which needs to be reached to the ultimate beneficiaries. Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw acknowledged the invaluable advice, support, and guidance provided by the TWG to ICC and appreciated the participants for their active participation in the meeting.

Ms. Mridula Kottekate, Assistant Director, delivered the closing remarks and moderated the meeting. *(ICC News)*

SIRAJ BAH USES COCONUTS TO FIGHT DEFORESTATION IN WEST AFRICA

Three days of severe rains, unusually heavy for Sierra Leone's rainy season, had given way to reddish brown mud flooding down the Sugarloaf Mountain residential slopes. Sinkholes have appeared. Before the earth crumbled, residents in this hilly capital described hearing a crack, similar to thunder or a bomb.

Their home has vanished. They were not found in a hospital or a morgue. Even as he looked through the news for their faces, the boy realized that his adopted family — the ones who had given him a bed when he was sleeping under a bridge — had perished in the mudslide.

If his supervisor hadn't put him on the night shift, Alhaji Siraj Bah, now 22, may have been there that August morning in 2017. He could have been sharing a room with Abdul, his best friend. Instead, he was scrubbing the floor of a drinking water factory when 1,141 people, including Abdul's family, perished or went missing.

Bah now owns his own firm with nearly three dozen employees and an ambitious goal: to reduce the felling of Sierra Leone's trees — a loss that scientists say increases the risk of mudslides — by persuading his neighbors to use coconut scraps instead of wood-based charcoal. Around Freetown, piles of shells and husks thrown by juice vendors provide an energy source that does not require chopping.

Rugsal Trading, his company, has now produced approximately 100 tons of coconut briquettes, which, according to studies, burn longer for families who cook on modest outdoor stoves. According to a survey from the Philippines, a ton of charcoal look-alikes made from natural waste might save up to 88 trees with 10-centimeter trunks. Bah thougt that the greater they grow, the more they can save their trees. Getting the word out about this alternative is the most difficult aspect, because everyone enjoys the taste of charcoal.

Researchers aren't sure what caused the worst natural disaster in the country's history, although some point to the disappearing flora of Sugarloaf Mountain. Deforestation not only adds to the amount of CO_2 in the atmosphere, but it also weakens slopes. Canopies are essential for absorbing rain and preventing floods. The dirt is held together by the roots.

However, the mounts in Freetown were balding as people gathered wood to clear land for housing and create charcoal, the most common cooking fuel in a country where electricity is sometimes intermittent. According to Global Forest Watch, an international tracker, Sierra Leone has lost 30% of its forest cover in the last two decades.

Bah had spotted persons harvesting wood in his area almost every day. Many people burned it to make charcoal bags. Most of the folks he knew used it in their cooking.

The Concept

Bah was obsessed with innovators as a kid. Mark Zuckerberg, the CEO and co-founder of Facebook, was his hero. According to his mother, he promised to build the next big thing when he was ten years old. Two years later, his father, a trucker, died, and the family ran out of money to care for Bah and his sister. At the age of 12, he snuck out of his eastern community and hitched a ride to Freetown, to support his entire family.

For four years, Bah lived on the streets, washing cars for a living. Then he ran into Abdul on a soccer field, and the two became fast friends. Before the mudslide, he lived with the boy's family for nine months. After that, he was always on YouTube where he grew fixated on finding ways to halt deforestation.

Bah, who was 17 at the time, saw a video of a man in Indonesia making charcoal substitutes out of coconut shells. Others in Ghana and Kenya were doing something similar: Collecting coconut scraps, drying them in the sun, grinding them down, and charring them in steel drums are all part of the process.

He observed the bakers combine the dark powder with binders such as cassava flour, then feed the dough into a machine that produces matte loaves. The loaves were then sliced into cubes. You could grill them in the same way, except the air would be filled with a coconut aroma, by which he saw a fantastic commercial

opportunity, that he could generate fuel out of trash we find on the street. *(The Washington Post)*

ICAR - CPCRI OUTREACH TO BELOW POVERTY LINE (BPL) SCHEDULED CASTE FAMILIES

The Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) of the Government of India from 15.02.2022 to 19.02.2022, ICAR-CPCRI, in conjunction with the Scheduled Caste Department of Kasaragod, Kerala, held a five-day demonstration and training program on "Scientific Cultivation Techniques of Coconut" for Scheduled Caste beneficiaries at ICAR-CPCRI, Kasaragod.

Dr. K. B. Hebbar, Acting Director of ICAR-CPCRI, inaugurated the program and encouraged the beneficiaries to actively participate in the training and improve their scientific skills in coconut cultivation and processing in order to find better employment opportunities and to use the skills learned during training to establish new coconut gardens in their villages.

During his presidential address, Dr. C. Thamban, ICAR-CPCRI Kasaragod's Head of Social Science, updated the farmers on the SCSP schemes and highlighted several ICAR-initiated activities. CPCRI has been working for the welfare of scheduled cast communities for the past four years. In addition to training, the institute plans to establish a one-hectare demonstration plot for coconut cultivation at the institution's research farm to provide hands-on training by involving beneficiaries in all activities, with the goal of some of them becoming master trainers.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Rajkumar, Scientist-in-Charge of the SCSP. There were 18 trainees from Scheduled Caste Communities who actively participated. During the technical session, Dr. Subramanian, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CPCRI Kasaragod, briefed the farmers on basic coconut farming skills such as land preparation, pit opening, soil health and nutrient management, and intercrop cultivation methods developed by the institute.

Dr. A. C. Mathew provided a session on various irrigation technologies as well as a live demonstration on how to lay out drip irrigation lines in the field. Dr. Sujithra M. delivered a lecture and hands-on instruction on integrated pest control tactics in coconut, as well as a field demonstration of biological agent treatments and rhinoceros beetle catching and killing using nylon net and pheromone approaches. Dr. Daliyamol informed the farmers about advancements in disease management and conducted field diagnostic visits as well as a disease management technology. Dr. Panjavarnam and Dr. Surekh R., Crop Production Division Scientists, had made field visits.

Dr. Rajkumar acted as Course Coordinator, and the training program's conveners are Dr. Sujithra, Dr. Daliyamol, and Dr. Surekha. During their feedback, the participants acknowledged their contentment but also wanted further practical demonstrations and training on vermicompost production, the usage of bio-control agents, coconut climbing trainings, and finding job prospects for them in CPCRI's farm activities.

Each participant received a training certificate as well as a vegetable seed package containing brinjal, okra, amaranthus, long bean, and gourds obtained from ICAR - IIHR, Bengaluru for production in their fields. *(CPCRI News)*

COCONUT FIBER SUBSTRATE HAS BECOME A VERY IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL ALLY

Substrate is an essential element of a plant. It is not only the permanent location where its life cycle will develop, but also a strictly essential food supply that, based on its qualities, will decide its growth. As a result, the use of a proper substrate is critical in agriculture, and solutions such as coconut fiber substrate, which gives optimum capability to manage plant growth circumstances, are increasingly being employed, as indicated by Sustratos del Sureste.

The raw material originates from India and Sri Lanka, the world's biggest producers of coconut fiber." the best quality from their suppliers for their purchase, which is evaluated in the laboratory upon delivery for proof.

After inspecting the raw material, they proceed to grind and rehydrate the coir (which comes compressed in blocks) to ensure proper expansion of the product, and, depending on the type of final substrate, mix it with other components (such as peat, perlite, vermiculite, fertilizers...) and bag it appropriately." All of these steps are critical and need monitoring, which Sustratos del Sureste considers vital.

A coconut substrate is a material that absorbs water while draining the surplus, resulting in substantial water savings. Furthermore, it raises the quantity of water in the soil that is easily available to the plant, which not only saves water but also maximizes the utilization of this element. Furthermore, because coconut substrate is a chemically inert substance, it preserves the pH, which is perfect for delicate plants, and because it is not made from decaying waste, it does not attract insects or illnesses."

"Coconut substrate is manufactured in a sustainable manner, is recyclable, and does not have the constraints that soil might have" (pollution, low productivity, exhaustion...). It enhances soil aeration and serves as a good mulch for the roots. All of these benefits make it a valuable agricultural ally, and they have led to this substance being regarded as a superior cultivation substrate.

In reality, it has become deeply embedded in modern agriculture. Because of its properties, it is particularly ideal for the early phases of growth of any crop, thus a sector that is rising alongside the company is that of seedbeds and nurseries, who utilize coco substrate to ensure a healthy and vigorous initial growth of their plants."

It has also been demonstrated that using coconut fiber substrate boosts yield of tomatoes, peppers, and other typical greenhouse vegetables in the Levant." Furthermore, it is great for demanding crops such as fruit trees/ plants, which is why the strawberry industry has benefited from this technology for the longest period. Other crops, such as pistachios, avocados, mangoes, and raspberries, have lately gained popularity. Their producers are really devoted to utilizing coconut substrate.

Hydroponic bags with coconut fiber for organic farming

Sustratos del Sureste offers a diverse range of solutions and coconut substrate types to fulfill the demands of its clients, who vary from professional manufacturers to merchants.

Among them is their hydroponic bag, one of our company's creations. The concept for this bag arose from the problems that our company's managers identified in the compressed sheets produced by our suppliers, the majority of whom were based in India. Our organization discovered that this product had various drawbacks, including a high EC, a lack of hydration, low quality plastic, no pre-cuts or drainage, and a lack of product uniformity. All of this results in the producer squandering time and money.

As a result, the hydroponic bag is manufactured entirely at their facilities using high-quality raw materials and under strict quality supervision. The coconut fiber is already hydrated (additional raw materials such as perlite, peat, fertilizer, etc. can be added); it is packed in national plastic with a three-year warranty, and pre-cuts for planting holes and drainage can be provided to satisfy the demands of the client. We are Spain's only substrate firm that creates this type of bag."

They also have Intereco certified coconut fiber for use in organic farming" (seed production in nurseries and seedbeds). It's all about SDS coconut fiber, which producers may use to enhance the soil, assuring greater

roots, better utilization of the nutrients offered to the crop, and, as a result, optimal vegetative development, while remaining compliant with organic production requirements at all times.

New 12,000 m² facilities

Sustratos del Sureste is a fresh firm created in mid-2013 by exceptional individuals with over 20 years of expertise. As a result of this, they can now claim to be the market leader in the coconut substrate area.

Because of the increasing demand for coconut fiber substrates by specialists in the agricultural-ornamental area, as well as their greater standards in terms of quality and phytosanitary control, they chose to differentiate themselves via the quality of our product and customized service.

That is why, in order to continue to fulfill the quality standards and provide the greatest service, they recently increased their facilities, lines, and machines, moving to a facility with more than 12,000 m2 of floor area. They'll have this new work place ready soon. *(Hortidaily)*

TEMPEH YEAST IS USED TO EXTRACTS COOKING OIL FROM COCONUT

The National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), Indonesia, is using tempeh yeast to extract cooking oil and virgin coconut oil (VCO) from coconut, Teuku Bardant, a researcher from BRIN's Chemical Research Center Researcher has informed. The addition of tempeh yeast helps separate oil and water within coconut milk naturally since the protein in coconut milk that helps oil and water to mix is eaten by the yeast.

He explainned that once the amount of protein decreases, its function of preserving the oil and water mix stability declines. As a result, there is no longer anything that maintains the oil and water molecules, and the two separate by themselves.

The process of producing the oil is the wet method, which involves producing milk first. Coconut flesh is grated, processed into milk, and then tempeh yeast is added to the mix, he informed. Next, the oil is heated to a temperature of 70 degrees Celsius to kill the yeast and its spores contained within the oil. The process is repeated two to three times, and is usually known as the pasteurization process, he added.

Bardant pointed out that this oil is better for human health because it has a short and medium chain. The shorter chain makes coconut oil and VCO easier to consume. When people consume such oils, the body tends to use them rather than store them under the skin tissue. Consuming coconut oil also does not lead to people gaining fat as fast as palm oil. He expects people to utilize coconut oil for cooking and palm oil for energy fuel. People will not be too dependent on palm oil because coconut oil can also be used as cooking. *(Antara)*

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE UAE PROMOTES COCONUT AT 2022 GULFOOD

The Department of Agriculture (DA), the Philippines, has showcased the country's coconut industry and other farm products during the 2022 Gulf Food Hotel and Equipment Exhibition and Salon Culinaire (Gulfood) in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

In a statement, DA Secretary William Dar urged Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) corporations to explore investing in the Philippines' agriculture industry. Over the years, coconut products, lead by coconut oil, have ranked as the top agricultural dollar earner in the country. Last year, exports totalled over $900 million (almost P46 billion), which might be quadrupled in the years if much-needed investments are made.

During the five-day expo from Feb. 13 to 17, the country displayed agricultural items such as coconut products from various firms around

the country as well as mango, banana, coffee, pineapple, and cacao.

Thousands of Gulfood 2022 participants. The FOODPhilippines displayed 39 Philippine food export enterprises and their different goods.

It is led by the DTI's Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (CITEM), Export Marketing Bureau (EMB), and Philippine Trade and Investment Center (PTIC) in Dubai and Jeddah, in collaboration with the Rural Agro-enterprise Partnership for Inclusive Development (RAPID) Growth Project, and the DA-Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA).

Dar mentions that the country need additional investments in coconut water processing systems and technologies, village-level coconut purchasing centers, and the creation of copra processing facilities. "We have tremendous wealth of undiscovered natural resources, and our commitment of public monies for environmental projects continues to rise year after year," Dar remarked.

"We have a competent labor force, plentiful raw material sources for manufacturing and processing, and a government that supports investors with favorable national laws and incentives," he added. *(Manila Bulletin)*

COCONUT FARMERS IN KOZHIKODE SEEK RURAL COLLECTION CENTRES

Upland farmers in Kozhikode district, Kerala, India, have advocated for the establishment of more coconut procurement centers in rural regions to capitalize on the state's raw coconut procurement campaign. Due to the lack of such local collection centers, many small-scale farmers are now forced to rely on the services of a center situated within the Kozhikode city corporation area.

According to the leaders of several farmer organizations, district and state officials should make efforts to establish at least one convenient collecting center in each panchayat. Many people say that because there isn't such a facility, they have to pay extra money to carry their goods to a faraway collecting center.

"We have learned that none of the selected organizations, including Kerafed and the Coconut Development Corporation, have the funds to fulfill the procurement expenditures," says Joy Kannanchira, head of 'We Farm,' an upland farmers' collective in Kozhikode district.

Given the high transportation costs, he believes that no small-scale farmers will be able to benefit from the urban collecting center.

The small-scale coconut farmers of Kuttiyadi report that they receive just 28 rupees per kilogram of coconut, which is far from a reasonable price.

They claim that purchase efforts previously planned with the cooperation of local Krishi Bhavans and giving a support price of 32 per kg have remained a non-starter.

According to Indian Producers Movement officials, no meaningful assistance package has been developed to meet the problems of small-scale coconut farmers. Projects that were previously initiated to improve the manufacturing and sale of value-added products have failed to ensure a sustainable life for many of these low-income populations. *(The Hindu)*

SURVIVE FOR 24 YEARS ON SOLE DIET OF TENDER COCONUT

Balakrishnan Palayi, a 63-year-old inhabitant of Kasaragod's Chandera, is far fitter than most individuals his age. What differentiates him from others is his passion with soft coconuts, which has become his exclusive diet for the past 24 years. Mr. Balakrishnan, a former office superintendent, began eating tender coconuts when his doctor diagnosed him with gastro-oesophageal reflux illness. It happens

when stomach acid repeatedly rushes back into the tube that connects the mouth and stomach (esophagus).

He said that his condition was causing him a lot of troubles. He vomited every time he ate. As a result, the physicians advised him to adjust his dietary habits. He gradually discovered that soft coconut provided him with far more relief than any other meal. "So, gradually, I moved to tender coconuts, and I've been surviving on that for the past 24 years," he explained.

He only cheats once a week, when he consumes raw or cooked vegetables grown on his farm. But only once a day, he added. Though transitioning from conventional food to just tender coconut was difficult for him for the first three months, he added that as the days passed, he couldn't live without tender coconuts. The Agricultural Research Station at Pilicode proved to be a boon to him, as he acquired tender coconuts for his daily needs.

Though several questioned him, he demonstrated that by only taking the tender coconut, he could work on his farm, swim, and exercise on a regular basis. Mr. Balakrishnan further stated that he had no health difficulties in the previous several years. During his government employment, he also triumphed in the National Civil Service meet and competed in the Asian Masters Athletic meet in Malaysia, where he placed fourth in the 5-kilometer walk.

Mr. Balakrishnan began his career as a police constable and afterwards joined the tax department. After retiring, he offered free physical training to PSC candidates. Because of his passion for football, he also coached his two children, one of whom twice represented the State in Santosh Trophy competitions and played for various teams, and the other who is establishing a name for himself in the game. *(The Hindu)*

CAYMAN COCONUT CELEBRATION

For the first time since the epidemic, residents and visitors gathered to Coco Fest in Pedro St. James.

On Saturday afternoon, the historic location witnessed a constant stream of people for the Tourism Attraction Board event, which aims to highlight the Cayman coconut and maintain its links to Caymanian culture and tradition.

The festival allows companies to display and sell their artwork, traditional dishes, and goods created from coconut oil or a portion of the coconut plant. Coco Fest included live music, activities, food vendors, and merchants selling coconut-based produce, goods, and art. *(Cayman Compass)*

NEW TOOL TO FIGHT INVASIVE COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE

Officials in Hawaii are using new technology to tackle the invasive coconut rhinoceros beetle and its spread via green waste transportation. When insects were discovered at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam eight years ago, the military issued an alert.

Since then, a concerted effort has been made to set massive black traps around Oahu in order to follow the spread. On a regular basis, teams backed by the University of Hawaii's Research Corporation examine them.

Shipping containers, according to state agriculture officials, are being used to fumigate trees and green trash before disposal.

Darcy Oishi, Biological Control Section Chief for the State Department of Agriculture, explained at the Pearl City Urban Garden that they have a pesticide applicator, inject the fumigant into it, it stays in the chamber, and then once the system is finished and it's safe for us to aerate, then the staff remove the treated material, and then dispose of it.

They might utilize the containers to treat large fronds and tree trunks that would otherwise be pulverized, composted, or burnt. This strategy is faster in terms of treating the coconut rhinoceros beetle and killing as many bugs as possible.

According to Oishi, other methods for fighting the beetle include injecting insecticides into trees and composting or burning infected trash.

The ideal situation is that if they can efficiently manage their green garbage, they can manage the insect population. In Kunia and Mililani, they have multiple increasing hotspots. Unfortunately, population growth is occurring in these areas. However, the department's top objective right now is to prevent breakouts outside of these sites so that they may effectively use the tools and methods to reduce core population numbers. *(Hawai'i Public Radio)*

FARMERS REQUEST IMPROVEMENTS IN BADAGRY COCONUT MARKET

Members of the Lagos State Coconut Sellers and Traders Association in Badagry have urged the state government to modernize the Agbalata Coconut Market.

Mr Amos Gbeliho, the association's Chairman, made the request during a meeting in Badagry with officials of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO-UN/UNIDO) and the Lagos State Government.

According to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), the team was in Badagry to undertake a one-month field study for Coconut Value Chain Analysis as part of FAO-UN/ UNIDO's ongoing partnership.

In November 2021, the Lagos State Government and the FAO-UN inked a 200,000 US dollar Unilateral Trust Fund Agreement for the development of the coconut value chain.

The alliance aims to advance the coconut value chain by accelerating production, processing, commercialization, and utilization. FAO will provide technical assistance for the intervention's inception/value chain analysis phase under the six-month agreement.

Gbeliho stated that the current status of the more than 45-year-old market, which is situated on an acre of ground, was unfit and required immediate maintenance. He stated that the market was built by farmers via personal labor and sacrifices, and that it was getting outdated and unable to serve the rising commerce.

He stated that the market now lacks basic facilities such as restrooms, office space, parking spaces, perimeter fencing, and a security gate, and that traders are vulnerable to security threats from criminals.

Other issues confronting the crop, are a lack of financial assistance, an unproductive old groove, illegal taxes, impoundment of commodities by the Nigeria Customs Service, security, and a lack of capacity.

According to him, the coconut industry is a massive one that generates billions of Naira for the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) if the government does not pay attention to it. This market was built over 40 years ago by farmers in Badagry, and they have not gotten any government help to enhance the value chain.

Whenever it rains, it's usually a tremendous problem for us; they have to rush helter-skelter to safeguard our coconuts, which don't like water. This is a multibillion-naira initiative that requires the backing of both the federal and state governments. The daily transaction volume in this market exceeds N50 million. They are pleading with the authorities to help us build a modern market in Badagry.

He also encouraged the government to be dedicated to revitalizing the traditional coconut plantation groove in order to increase output. Mrs Adeola Akinrinlola, FAO-UN Country Officer

in Abuja, who headed the team, stated that they were in Badagry to collect data via key informant interviews, surveys, actor interviews, focus group discussions, and analyses.

Akinrinlola said that the team will tour the state's coconut producing areas, processors, marketers, and other value chain actors in Lagos, to analyze the coconut value chain, conduct interviews, and learn about the difficulties so that we can offer recommendations to the proper authorities.

The FAO-UN and the Lagos State Government are working together on the survey. The conclusion of this research will lead to a larger project, but we will need information to accomplish so. They want to know about the issues that farmers, marketers, producers, processors, and transporters face.

Mr Rahman Yusuf, a coconut dealer and Badagry native, told NAN that the value chain of coconut has continued to attract more individuals. He said that if correctly utilized, coconut sales will increase the state's Internally Generated Revenue.

Yusuf stated that the market is one of the largest in Nigeria, and that it is still a family business that their children enjoy. Dr Essien Akpan, a survey consultant, stated that the project's scope will be expanded to include Badagry, Ojo, Ikorodu, Epe, Ibeju Lekki, and Ikeja. *(News Agency of Nigeria)*

GHANA FARMERS APPEAL TO GOVERNMENT FOR SUPPORT

The CoFAG Delegates Conference was conducted in Koforidua earlier this month. Delegates from around the region attended the event, which was themed "Coconut Farming, a Solution to Galamsey and Rural Poverty."

According to the group, this would allow its members to hire more people and create revenue for themselves and the country as a whole. The specific areas of assistance asked include finance, extension services, and a vehicle to carry out the association's tasks.

These were mentioned in an address delivered by the association's National Vice-President, Mr Bismark Gyeeku, at the Eastern Region. It was organized to discuss on issues impacting coconut production in order to identify solutions.

Challenges

Mr. Gyeeku noted that, although ranking 14th on the list of the world's top coconut producers in 2017, with 383,960 tonnes, Ghana's sector was faced by a variety of issues.

He mentioned money for farmers, skilled extension personnel to advise farmers, and a lack of a vehicle to carry out the association's duties as examples of such problems. Most extension officials who sent coconut seedlings to the group had limited expertise of coconut farming, thus the government should help the association educate its own extension officers to assist them.

Raw materials

Mr. Gyeeku stated that, in addition to providing food security and foreign cash revenues, coconut also provided as a raw material for the pharmaceutical and beverage industries. He further warned that insufficient planting supplies, such as seedlings and organic fertilizer, were having a detrimental impact on them, and that galamsey operators were ruining area intended for coconut production.

Nonetheless, he highlighted that the association, on its own, was resurrecting the coconut sector via institutional and organizational capacity improvement, as well as the formation of a competitive market on the value chain, as well as the development of jobs for youngsters in both rural and urban areas.

Income generating

Mr Henry Kobina Crentsil Jr, the Eastern Regional Director of Agriculture, urged more

women to participate into coconut growing since it would provide them with cash to care for their children. Coconut growing is a good endeavor that the region's young should take advantage of in order to improve their future.

Mr Dei Divine, the National Secretary of CoFAG, also urged the young to take an interest in coconut growing since it might help alter their lives while also providing them with a sustainable source of income. *(Graphic Online)*

FIJI COPRA MILLERS LTD HAS EMPOWERED COCONUT FARMERS THROUGH MICRO-INSURANCE PRODUCTS AND FINANCE LITERACY

Mr Dapo Olakulehin, General Manager of Lascoda, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Lagos that the partnership will result in the agency producing 200,000 seedlings and individual farmers and others producing 800,000 coconut trees.

President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, says the Fiji Copra Millers Limited has increased its influence and advocacy by empowering coconut farmers through parametric micro-insurance products and financial literacy.

Ratu Wiliame, who is also the Deputy Chairman of the Fiji Copra Millers Limited Board, made this point during his goodbye meal. He claims that the Copra Millers' initiatives

have significantly increased productivity and product diversification.

According to Ratu Wiliame, this will give more diversity to the local market while also improving the organization's brand image and profitability.

The President expresses his sadness at leaving, but he is also humbled by the wonderful friendship formed and developed during their time together.

Raj Sharma, Chairman of Fiji Copra Millers Limited, claims that mill renovations and product diversification occurred under Ratu Wiliame's term. *(Fiji Village)*

IN KERALA CLASSROOMS, WOOD MAKES WAY FOR COIR

Eco-friendly coir composite board is used to make furniture in government schools in India's Alappuzha district in Kerala State. Half-a-dozen government schools in the district are replacing wooden desks and benches with more sustainable and environmentally friendly furniture made of coir composite board (coir wood) with funding from the Alappuzha district panchayat (village council).

Foam Mattings (India) Limited (FOMIL), a state government business, manufactures the coir composite tables and benches. Its principal basic material is coconut coir fiber.

According to officials, using coir composite benches and desks minimizes the need for tree felling, which aids in the fight against climate change. It also breathes new life into the faltering coir sector. And, as a first step in transitioning to sustainable furniture in schools, 50 units of three-seater dual desk-bench were recently handed over to the Government High School in Mannancherry. The units are strong and long-lasting, with storage spaces. *(UCAP Bullletin)*

TFMC VOWS TO OPTIMIZE COCO LEVY FUND

The inter-agency body tasked to oversee and set the investment strategy of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund (CFITF) vowed to optimize the use of the coco levy fund for the benefit of the coconut farmers.

In a statement Thursday, Feb. 24, the Department of Finance (DOF), the Philippines, said the Trust Fund Management Committee (TFMC) has convened for its first meeting for this year last February 7.

Presided by Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III, the meeting focused on pending issues concerning the government-owned and disputed shares in the United Coconut Planters Life Assurance Corp. and the status of the reconveyance of the shares to the government.

According to the DOF, the TFMC discussed how to efficiently and swiftly accomplish its objective of optimizing the use of the multibillion-peso coco levy fund for the benefit of the country's coconut farmers.

During the meeting, the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) reported to the TFMC its responses to various queries from coconut farmers' groups on the coco levy fund.

In addition, the Bureau of the Treasury, which serves as the TFMC Secretariat, reported on the income performance of the CFITF, the committee's planned 2022 disbursement and asset allocation, and its accomplishment report for 2021.

The TFMC, composed of the DOF, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and the Department of Justice (DOJ), is an inter-agency body mandated by Republic Act (RA) No. 11524, otherwise known as the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act.

To fulfill the functions as secretariat, the TFMC also approved during the meeting the 2022 budget of the Treasury bureau, as TFMC Secretariat, subject to the evaluation of the pay rates of its personnel services component by the DBM.

The meeting was attended by, among others, TFMC members Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra and Budget OIC-Secretary Tina Rose Marie Canda; Finance Undersecretary Antonette Tionko; and National Treasurer Rosalia de Leon.

Also in attendance were OIC-Deputy Treasurer Eduardo Mariño III; PCGG Chairman John Agbayani; and Land Bank of the Philippines (LandBank) Senior Vice President Gonzalo Bongolan.

The February 7 meeting was the 5th held by the TFMC since it first convened on June 17 last year. *(Manila Bulletin)*

P700-M COCO FACILITY EXPANSION HAS BEEN COMPLETED

Century Pacific Food, Inc. (CNPF), one of the Philippines' major food and beverage companies, intends to complete the P700 million expansion of its coconut OEM (original equipment manufacturer) factory in Mindanao by the end of this quarter. The company announced to the Philippine Stock Exchange that it has started an expansion project to increase the plant's capacity by 50% and add new lines to the facility. This comes after the extension and expansion of long-term contracts with major partners Linaco and Vita Coco in 2020, according to CNPF.

The Linaco Group is a leading regional coconut farmer based in Malaysia. It sells a wide range of high-quality products in major retail outlets both in the United States and abroad.

Linaco operates in more than 40 countries around the world, including Europe, the Middle East, China, Hong Kong, and Australia.

Vita Coco, on the other hand, is the world's most well-known coconut water brand, with CNPF as a major and long-time supplier. The Company manufactures several of the brand's coconut products, including packaged coconut water.

Noel Tempongko, CNPF Vice President and General Manager of the Coconut Division mentioned that in recent years, demand for coconut goods has dramatically increased. As more customers become aware of and actively manage their health and wellness on a daily basis, they turn to coconut products, which

are intrinsically healthy, to help them live healthier lives.

This much-needed growth, according to Tempongko, allows them to fully address the needs of major partners and consumers both locally and abroad. In order to support their growth in both the branded and OEM businesses in 2022 and beyond, they must invest in facility development.

In 2019, CNPF launched its own brand of coconut products, including culinary packaged coconut cream. The brand has grown at an exponential rate since its inception, owing to both organic and pandemic demand. Coco Mama also sells extra virgin coconut oil and coconut sugar blends.

The Coconut Division has reached yet another key milestone with this expansion. In 2021, CNPF completed the commissioning of a 5.2MW solar PV installation for its tuna and coconut processing activities.

This provides around 15% of the electricity required by these two divisions. As a result, the CNPF's largest manufacturing area now gets more than 60% of its energy from renewable sources including hydropower and solar. *(Manila Bulletin)*

THIS WOMAN FARMER EARNS LAKHS USING MIXED-CROPPING TECHNIQUE

Small-holdings and family farming are the two main types of agricultural output in Maharashtra's Konkan region. Around a decade ago, Priyanka Nagwekar of Hatis Village in Ratnagiri Tehsil in Ratnagiri District, Maharashtra, India, began family farming.

Initially, she used traditional methods to grow subsistence crops including rice, finger millets, and vegetables on her 22-hectare farm. Her lack of knowledge and skills in current agriculture technologies, notably in the areas of coconut and spice crops, resulted in a limited revenue.

After learning about the ICAR-All India Coordinated Research Project on Palms, Regional Coconut Research Station, Bhatye, Ratnagiri, her life transformed. In the Coconut Garden "Lakhibaug" Concept to enhance farm income, she learned about the importance of vermicompost in enhancing crop yield and mixed-cropping of spices.

After becoming intrigued in the mixed-cropping of spices and vermi-compost manufacturing technique, Priyanka began producing spices such as black pepper, nutmeg, and cinnamon as mixed crops in a coconut garden.

She also started using Eudrilus sp. earthworms to vermicompost the biomass of coconut (leaves after removing the petiole portion; spathe and bunch waste), banana (leaves and pseudostem after bunch harvest), Nutmeg, and Cinnamon (freshly pruned biomass) and applied it to coconut palms and component crops. As a result, she started a mixed-cropping system and began vermi-composting as a source of income.

Priyanka took part in a 5-day Vocational Training Programme on Coconut and Spice Cultivation Technology and Vermi-compost Production at the Regional Coconut Research Station, Bhatye, Ratnagiri, as well as Programs on Coconut Tree Climbing, "FOCT" Program, organized by the RCRS, Bhatye, Ratnagiri in collaboration with the CDB, Kochi, Kerala.

Knowing the financial benefits, she planned to develop commercial mixed-cropping of spices in her former coconut orchard, together with a vermi-compost production unit. The popularity of organic foods, notably soft coconut and spices like black pepper, nutmeg, kokum, and banana, among others, motivated her to expand her small-scale enterprise into a commercial endeavor.

With her husband's help, she bought a four-wheeler for farming, which helped them a lot during the epidemic by taking agricultural

things to markets and delivering food to people's homes.

After establishing herself in mixed-cropping of coconut and spices, she proposed developing a Spice Nursery with Black Pepper Cuttings / Seedlings. She did it by enrolling in a Nursery Management training program at the RCRS in Ratnagiri's Bhatye. Thanks to her creative agricultural practices, Priyanka's cash turnover from mixed-cropping, vermicompost unit, and spice nursery is approximately Rs. 5.73 lakhs. Her sole source of income is farming, which brings in a net profit of Rs. 3.82 lakhs.

Priyanka hopes to use virgin coconut oil production in the future to supplement her income. *(Krishi Jagran)*

FIRM ORGANISE EXTRA TRIPS TO ASSIST COPRA FARMERS

Copra farmers in Cakaudrove, Fiji, no longer have to worry about transporting coconuts to the mill, as the company has increased trips to pick up their produce. Fiji Coconut Millers PTE Ltd confirmed yesterday they would provide extra trips to assist the farmers.

The positive change follows concerns raised with Acting Prime Minister Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum during his visit last week, when the farmers complained about the limited capacity of the company truck.

Mr Sayed-Khaiyum assured the farmers he would discuss the issue with the company board.

The news has been welcomed by farmers in Wailevu. Company board chairman Raj Sharma posted on social media that they had attended to the issue.

"We visited the villagers who raised issues with Mr Sayed-Khaiyum, and we have agreed to provide extra trips to pick up (copra)," Mr Sharma said.

He said they had also looked at options to buy green copra and consider grants or assistance for copra dryers in the village. *(The Fiji Times)*

DOST-FPRDI TECH: FROM WASTE TO 'SUPER ULING'

Thanks to a technology developed by the Department of Science and Technology's Forest Products Research and Development Institute, the Philippines, what may have been a pile of rubbish waiting to decompose becomes a profitable endeavor for a local coconut farm (DOST-FPRDI).

In 2018, the Thega Coconut Farm (TCF) approached DOST-FPRDI for help converting the farm's tons of coconut shells into charcoal briquettes.

According to Sarahme Corazon B. Esteban of the DOST-Socio-Economics FPRDI's and Marketing Section (SEMS), TCF creates roughly 1,600 kilos to 2,400 kilograms of coconut shells every 45 days from copra production.

Coconut shells are normally left to break down into natural compost if they are not given away for free to local households or sold to tinapa [smoked fish] makers for P3.50 per kg. To transform the garbage into something useful, the company decided to buy four drum kilns, a manual briquettor, a binder-mixer, and a charcoal crusher from DOST-FPRDI.

Charcoal briquettes are a compacted mass of fuel material manufactured from a mixture of carbonized fines and a binder that is molded under pressure.

Because it is tiny and homogeneous in size, it is less dirty and easier to handle than regular charcoal. It also burns more slowly, produces more intense heat per unit volume, and produces nearly no smoke.

TCF's charcoal briquettes are now known as "Super Uling PH", with pricing ranging from P60 to P80 per kilogram.

After a temporary pause in production in July 2019, when a succession of typhoons damaged the farm's primary market, Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro, the farm's operation has been steadily recovering.

The Covid-19 epidemic had a negative impact on it in 2020. TCF is currently operating at full capacity, with a monthly production volume of 1.5 to 2 tons.

In Puerto Galera and other tourist destinations, Super Uling charcoal briquettes are already available on online shopping sites and in some physical stores of local food businesses and houses.

The briquettes, as well as other TCF products like coco ropes, coco peat, and coco coir, are sold in kiosks in Ayala Fairview Terraces and Ayala Vertis North. *(Business Mirror)*

TRADE NEWS

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

Prices of vegetable oils generally improved after slightly easing last week.

Coconut oil in Rotterdam market was back in action after a quiet affair last week. Five turnovers were reported and concluded at $2,000-2,050/MT CIF. This favorably compared with prior trades reported fortnight ago done at $1,965-1,990/MT CIF. Still at discount under palm kernel oil, market opened weaker ignoring higher palm oil and soybean oil with offers at $1,985.00-2,107.50/MT CIF for positions from February/March through to June/July. Values thereafter improved following other markets but settled at close back to opening rates.

The palm kernel oil market continued to see activity with four parcels reported changing hands at $1,760-2,200/MT CIF, higher than prior week at $1,630-1,880. Unlike rival coconut oil, opening values were firmer at $1,965.00-2,408.50/MT CIF for positions from March/April through to June/July in line with other related vegetable oils, and stayed mostly higher most part of the week. Market settled higher at close at $1,980-2,425/MT CIF.

Discount of coconut oil under palm kernel oil significantly widened this week in first half positions when compared with week-ago while in the second half positions where coconut oil turned premium, the spreads narrowed further. This was reflected in the week's average price differential which showed coconut oil developing much bigger discount of $100.93/MT compared to $12.44 week ago. Price premium/discount per position are shown following: February/March -$371.65 (-$140.33 last week); March/April -$339.30 (-$209.00); April/May -$264.30 (-$180.00); May/June -$248.65 (-$144.35); June/July $4.80 (-$35.50); July/August $126.67 ($26.83); August/September no data ($35.50), September/October no data ($85.00); October/November $130.00 ($213.75); November/December $155 ($223.75).

At the CBOT soya complex market, soybean futures were easier earlier this week on profit-taking after the recent highs. News of possible Russian troops withdrawal also weighed on prices. By midweek, however, market bounced back as investors continue to monitor the increasing Russia/Ukraine tension which could lead to supply disruption in case of war.

At the palm oil section, market tracked lower after opening on higher ground but managed to recover towards the weekend. Market has been influenced by swings in crude mineral oil and soybean prices which at the start of the week gathered strength, thus the firmer start. Support also came from lower stocks and production in Malaysia tied to labor shortages, and to export restrictions in Indonesia. However, midweek saw the market under pressure from a

weakened crude mineral oil prices and news of reduced tension on the Russian/Ukraine border, but eventually reversed towards the weekend. Market strength lately was fueled by gains in CBOT soybean oils and persistent concerns of the Russian/Ukraine situation. Reports of strong February export from Malaysia also added to the favorable market sentiment.

Prices of tropical oils for nearest forward shipment were mixed with coconut oil still in the negative territory. Coconut oil shed another $24.10 from $2,101.00 last week to $2,076.90/MT CIF in the current week. On the other hand, palm kernel oil bounced back from last week slump as it gained $106.20/MT from $2,310.00 to $2,416.20/MT CIF and palm oil recovered posting increment of $25.75/MT from

$1,468.00 to $1,493.75/MT CIF. Consequently, the price discount of coconut oil under palm kernel oil widened from $209.00 last week to $339.30/MT this week while price premium against palm oil further narrowed from $633.00 to $583.15/MT. *(UCAP Bullletin)*

MARKET ROUND-UP OF COCONUT OIL

In Rotterdam, the coconut oil market resumed activity after staying quiet last week. Trades reported consisted of $2,020 (twice), $2,050 for March/April; $2,025 for April/ May; and $2,000/MT CIF for May/June. Prices generally improved after opening softer but closed with sellers reverting to opening levels at $2,107.50 for February/March; $2,032.50 for March/April; $2,020 for April/May; $1,995 for May/June; $1,985/MT CIF for June/July. Buyers' participation improved this week across all positions but nearby with closing bids at $1,997.50 for March/April; $1,982.50 for April/May; $1,960 for May/June; $1,900/MT CIF for June/July.

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

INDONESIA EXPORTED GRATED COCONUT TO THE UNITED STATES

Coconut processed products from PT BOF in Bintan, Riau Islands, in the form of desiccated coconut and coconut chips have successfully penetrated the American market for the first time in early 2022.

This is a breakthrough in early 2022, hopefully it will be a good start and exports will continue to increase this year. According to Head of Tanjungpinang Agricultural Quarantine, Raden Nurcahyo Nugroho.

The first export of coconut chips and penetrated the United States (US) market was the BOF's effort to succeed in the program of the triple export movement (Gratieks) launched by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Exports of dried grated coconut with a total of 12.4 tons and coconut chips of 5.6 tons with an economic value of IDR 819.4 million were released on January 14, 2022.

This is their first request to be sent in one container with food-grade standards. With the opening of the US market, he said, it was a breath of fresh air for coconut farmers in Indonesia, so that farmers no longer had to worry about market absorption.

Planting coconuts is a very profitable long-term investment because flowers, fruit, leaves and even coconut stems all have a selling value.

According to him, the market for processed coconut products abroad is very open. Not only processed coconut meat, but also processed coconut coir are in demand by overseas markets.

Currently, the industrial area in Bintan Regency is being developed for processing coconut coir whose market is export-oriented. This will become an integrated coconut processing system in one location. So that coconuts from gardens that have been

registered organically can go directly to the factory without having to be peeled first.

Tanjungpinang Agricultural Quarantine, he continued, continues to play an active role in encouraging the success of the free program by providing export certificate delivery services (AKTIF Exports), so that with this service users only send online PPK. The certificate will be delivered to the service user's place after a series of certification checks are passed and PNBP payments are completed via e-billing .

Separately, Minister of Agriculture Syahrul Yasin Limpo said that the business in agriculture is very promising and has proven to be able to support the Indonesian economy in the midst of a pandemic, because food needs cannot be avoided in any situation. Businesses in the agricultural sector can be from plant cultivation, processing and packaging and even transportation. Millennial farmers don't have to struggle with mud, becoming a trader in agricultural commodities is a very good opportunity. *(bisnis.com)*

COPRA WILL BE AVAILABLE IN ERODE ON REGULATED MARKETS

Under the Price Support Scheme (PSS) of the Central government, Erode Regulated Market will procure copra from farmers till June and hence farmers were encouraged to bring their produce to the markets and get the right price, said Collector H. Krishnanunni.

A release said that for 2022, PSS ensures remunerative prices to the farmers and Tamil Nadu Cooperative Marketing Federation Limited (TANFED), a State agency to undertake procurement of copra under the scheme, procures copra from farmers directly.

In the district, copra is procured through the regulated markets functioning at Sathyamangalam, Avalpoondurai, Elumathur and Kodumudi. Milling copra will be procured for ₹105.90 per kg and the ball copra for ₹110 per kg at the quality fixed by the government.

After procurement, the money will be transferred to the farmers' bank account directly, he added. Hence, coconut farmers were asked to register their names with the regulated markets by submitting a copy of Aadhaar

card, front page of bank savings pass book,chittaandadangalat the earliest, the release added. *(The Hindu)*

FIJI COCONUT COMPANY TO DIVERSIFY

The Fiji Coconut Pte Ltd is embarking on an innovative plan to further diversify its production.

Company chairperson Raj Sharma revealed that it is in talks to seek new ideas for coconut husks, coconut water and coconut chips in a bid to expand its output.

This will augur well for its name change from Copra Millers Fiji, he added.

The President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere was instrumental in initiating the rebranding when he was the deputy board chairperson of Fiji Coconut Pte Ltd.

Mr Sharma said the reason for the change of name was to use coconut to its full potential.

"The shed and the machines and the hot air drier were all during the time of His Excellency the President," Mr Sharma said.

"Initially we were producing crude oil and then we ventured into virgin coconut oil and coconut cooking oil."

This was all through innovative ideas from other by-products that could be generated from the raw material, he added.

Mr Sharma promised President Ratu Wiliame that the company would continue in the journey that he has set for them.

Challenges

Mr Sharma shared the challenges that the coconut industry had and measures it put in place to secure employment to President Ratu Wiliame during an event last Friday.

Although the Tropical Cyclone Yasa, the COVID-19 pandemic saw the company make losses,they did not send anyone home or put them on pay deductions, Mr Sharma said.

"There was a 66 percent loss of the supply of coconuts to the mill," he said.

President Ratu Wiliame commended the company for its efforts.

"Coconut has been a source of food, protection, medicine, employment and income and many other positive traits for generations," he said.

He encouraged the company to continue in their work so that the coconut industry can be successful again.

Copra was Fiji's number one export product in the 1960s. *(Fiji Sun)*

THE PHILIPPINES' COCONUT WATER FIRM SENDING TRIAL SHIPMENT TO CHINA CUSTOMER

According to the Department of Agriculture-Davao (DA-11) regional office, a company selling organic coconut goods would send a trial cargo of young coconut to China soon to meet increased demand, which is projected to be up to 300 40-foot containers monthly.

A meeting between a group of Chinese purchasers and Cocowild Philippines, Inc. for the supply of young coconut, which is the source of fresh coconut water, was recently handled by the regional office's marketing support team.

Cocowild, based in Polomolok, South Cotabato, has two satellite facilities that can package young coconut at a capacity of up to 18 container vans, according to Geralyn M. Hobrero, a company spokesman. the company is using the trial shipment to evaluate if it can meet Chinese entry rules as well as the buyer's quality requirements. The company also exports coconut sugar, coco syrup, and honey-cured vinegar in addition to young coconut.

Abel James I. Monteagudo, Regional Executive Director of the Department of Agriculture, said the DA agency is ready to help develop market links. Eng Seng Food Products, based in Davao, began exporting fresh young coconut to China in 2019, but was unable to satisfy the volume demand.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority's September quarter figures, Davao Region was the country's third-largest coconut producer. Calabarzon was the most productive region, followed by Northern Mindanao. *(Business World)*

OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

MALAYSIAN PALM OIL EXPORT IMPORTANT DESTINATION

Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC) said the Middle East region will continue as an important export destination for the country's palm oil, citing as basis the region's population base of over 330 million and an 8% increase in consumption of 2.34 million tons in 2021 vs. 2020, according to report in Bernama on January 30. Chief executive officer Wan Aishah Wan Hamid said the region has shown consistent growth in consumption of specialty fats and palm oil.

The leading importer from this region is Turkey with a volume of 703,588 tons followed by Iran with 404,319 tons, with respective year-on-year increases of 19% and 25%. Other countries which recorded increases were United Arab Emirates (UAE), Yemen, Jordan, Syria, Qatar and Kuwait. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

B40 PALM-BASED BIODIESEL TESTS IN INDONESIA

The Indonesian government is set to start 40% palm-based biodiesel (B40) road tests this month quoting a senior government official. The energy ministry is planning to test two types of B40 blending, one using 30% fatty acid methyl ester (FAME) and 10% distilled palm methyl ester (DPME), and another using 30% FAME and 10% palm-based diesel known as green diesel.

The road test would take around five months, the ministry's director-general Dadan Kusdiana said, and the decision on mandatory B40 implementation would be taken on completion of the tests. Initially, the government had planned to launch the B40 program between 2021/2022, but high vegetable oil prices had made it too costly. The Indonesian Palm Oil Association (GAPKI), however, expected B40 to be delayed beyond this year. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

TIRE WITH 70% SUSTAINABLE-MATERIAL CONTENT WAS DEVELOPED

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company announced the release of a demonstration tire with 70% sustainable-material content, including industry-leading innovations. With an ambitious goal in 2020 to create a tire made 100% from sustainable materials in 10 years, this development showed great progress has been made by the company scientists and engineers.

The 70% sustainable-material tire includes 13 featured ingredients across nine different tire components, including carbon black, soybean oil, silica, polyester. Company performance indicators have shown the component properties to deliver tire strong overall performance. Carbon black provides reinforcement compound to help increase tire life. The use of soybean oil in tires is a significant Goodyear innovation that helps keep a tire's rubber compound pliable in changing temperatures. Soybean oil is a bio-based resource that reduces Goodyear's use of petroleum-based products.

Silica is an ingredient often used in tires to help improve grip and reduce fuel consumption. Goodyear's new tire contains a unique variety of silica produced from rice husk ash, a byproduct of rice processing that is often discarded and put into landfills. Polyester is recycled from plastic bottles and other plastic waste by reverting the polyester into its base chemicals and reforming them into technical grade polyester feasible for tire cords. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

POTENTIAL USING OF OLIVE PIT IN BIOFUEL

The potential for using olive pits in biofuels has been discovered in a new study by Jaén-based experts Juan Vilar Strategic Consultants. According to the research, the findings suggest that such fuel is "environmentally friendly, has

a high calorific value (4,500 calories/gm), and is cost-effective."

In a typical season, Spain produces roughly 6 million tons of olives, with pits accounting for about 15% of that total (900,000 tons). According to the survey, olive dressing enterprises and oil extractors collect almost 450,000 tons of olive pits each year, of which 323,500 tons are sold, primarily for use as biofuel in the agricultural sector.

One of the study's primary findings was that, with greater utilization of this resource, Andalusia's agri-food sector could become energy self-sufficient, with each season's olive pit production generating enough electricity to cover the entire sector's annual needs. Olive pit production had a low environmental impact as a naturally occurring by-product of an established business, according to the analysis, compared to fossil fuels or other biofuels that required dedicated cultivation and processing. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

TAX ON PALM OIL IMPORTS CUT TO HELP CONSUMERS AND REFINERS

India has cut its tax on crude palm oil (CPO) imports to 5 percent from 7.5 percent, the government said, as the world's biggest edible oil importer tries to rein in local prices of the commodity and help domestic refiners and consumers.

The reduction in the tax, known as the Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC), will widen the gap between the CPO and refined palm oil import duties, effectively making it cheaper for Indian refiners to import CPO, said industry officials.

The tax cut came into effect on February 20.

B.V. Mehta, executive director of Mumbai-based Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) mentioned that after the reduction in AIDC, the import tax difference between CPO and refined palm oil would widen to 8.25 percent. This will help Indian refiners, but government needs to increase the difference further to 11 percent to encourage local refining.

In a separate notification, the government also said it would extend a reduction in a separate, basic customs duty on edible oils until September 30. The tax reduction had been due to expire on March 31.

India imports more than two-thirds of its edible oil needs and has been struggling to contain a rally in local oil prices over the last few months.

Sensitive to inflation

The country imports palm oil mainly from top producers Indonesia and Malaysia, while other oils, such as soy and sunflower, come from Argentina, Brazil, Ukraine and Russia.

Refined palm oil imports accounted for nearly half of India's total palm oil imports in the past few months, said Sandeep Bajoria, chief executive of Sunvin Group, a vegetable oil brokerage and consultancy firm. The share of refined palm oil could come down to 20 percent with the revision in the tax structure.

Indian refiners have been asking New Delhi to change the import duty structure as the overseas buying of refined palm oil was cheaper than CPO due to higher taxes imposed by producing countries on exports of CPO.

Mindful of an electorate that is highly sensitive to food price inflation, India's government in the past few months tried to rein in domestic prices by reducing import taxes, imposing stockpile limits and suspending futures trading in edible oils and oilseeds. *(Aljazeera)*

HEALTH NEWS

THE CLEAR DRINK WITH 'LOW SUGAR' THAT MAY 'LOWER BLOOD PRESSURE'

If you're above 40, the health organization recommends having it checked every five years. According to the British Heart Foundation, up to five million persons in the UK have undiagnosed high blood pressure and are unaware that they are at danger. Making healthy lifestyle changes can sometimes help reduce your risks of developing high blood pressure, as well as assist lower your blood pressure if it's already high. According to the NHS.

Most individuals don't get enough potassium in their diet, according to the Cleveland Clinic. Potassium aids in the removal of excess sodium from the body through urine, and coconut water is high in potassium. Coconut water can even help decrease blood pressure. Coconut water appears to lower blood pressure in those with high blood pressure, according to preliminary studies.

However, if you are using blood pressure medication, it is advisable to avoid coconut water because it may cause your blood pressure to drop too low. It's advisable to talk to your doctor about it. According to the organization, you should avoid drinking coconut water two weeks before any surgery since it can impact your blood pressure due to its high potassium content.

Coconut water is the transparent fluid inside coconuts, according to the Mayo Clinic. It's not to be confused with coconut milk, which is made from a combination of coconut water and grated coconut.

Coconut water is a form of juice. Unflavored coconut water, unlike other drinks, is low in sugar and calories.

Coconut water is commonly used to rehydrate after exercise or while suffering from a minor sickness. Coconut water does include electrolytes including potassium, sodium, and manganese. One of the simplest methods to lower your blood pressure is to eat less of specific foods. A high-salt (or sodium) diet can elevate blood pressure, increasing your risk of heart disease and stroke, according to the NHS.

Some foods are nearly always high in salt due to the way they are prepared. Salt causes your body to hang onto water, states Blood Pressure UK. When you consume too much, the extra water in your blood causes extra pressure on the walls of your blood vessels, which raises your blood pressure.

It suggests that, in addition to limiting your salt intake and eating a generally healthy diet, you should cut back on alcohol, lose weight if you're overweight, reduce your caffeine intake, and quit smoking if you're a smoker.

Many people with high blood pressure feel well, according to the British Heart Foundation, therefore it's crucial to get your blood pressure checked periodically. Physical activity, according to the charity, can help lower your risk of heart and circulatory illness, as well as blood pressure and cholesterol.

The only method to determine if your blood pressure is too high is to have it checked. Blood pressure is the force exerted on your blood vessels and organs as your heart pumps blood around your body.

Two numbers are used to calculate blood pressure. The greater the number, the more force your heart exerts when pumping blood around your body. The resistance to blood flow in the blood arteries is measured by diastolic pressure, which is the lower value. If you don't take actions to keep your blood pressure under control, blood pressure readings between 120/80mmHg and 140/90mmHg could suggest you're at risk of developing high blood pressure, the NHS warns. *(Express)*

COCONUT RECIPE

COCONUT BLACK BEAN SOUP WITH MANGO-AVOCADO SALSA

If you have leftover soup, use it to make enfrijoladas: Mash or puree the beans with a splash of water or orange juice. Keep the puree warm. Lightly toast corn tortillas and dip them into the bean puree before folding them onto plates and serving with your choice of salsa, hot sauce, cheese or crema.

Ingredients

For the salsa

1. 1 small red onion (about 5 ounces)
2. 1 ripe mango (about 8 ounces), peeled, pitted and diced
3. 1 ripe avocado, peeled, pitted and diced
4. 3 sprigs fresh cilantro, chopped
5. 1 tablespoon fresh lime juice, plus more as needed
6. Fine salt

For the soup

1. 1 tablespoon coconut or vegetable oil
2. 2 cloves garlic, minced or finely grated
3. 2 tablespoons tomato paste
4. 1 teaspoon ground cumin
5. ½ teaspoon ground chiles or smoked or hot paprika
6. 2 (15-ounce) cans black beans, preferably no salt added, drained and rinsed (or 3 cups cooked black beans)
7. 1 (13.5-ounce) can coconut milk, preferably light
8. ¾ cup water or vegetable stock
9. ½ teaspoon fine salt, plus more as needed

Instruction

1. Halve the onion. Grate one half on the large holes of a grater and set aside. Dice the other half.
2. Make the mango-avocado salsa: In a small bowl, combine the diced red onion, mango, avocado, cilantro and lime juice. Stir, and taste. Add more lime juice and/or a pinch of salt, if desired.
3. In a medium saucepan over high heat, heat the oil until it shimmers. Add the grated onion and cook, stirring with a wooden spoon, until it begins to look transparent and just starts to brown, about 2 minutes. Add the garlic, tomato paste, cumin and ground chiles or paprika, and cook, stirring occasionally, until fragrant, about 1 minute. Stir in the black beans, coconut milk and water or broth. Bring to a boil and cook for 5 minutes. Add the salt, then taste, adding more, if needed.
4. Cook for another 5 minutes, stirring occasionally, then, using an immersion blender, partially puree the beans until the soup looks half creamy and half chunky, with some coconutty broth holding it all together. (To puree in a standing blender, use a ladle to transfer about half of the soup to a blender jar. Remove the vent in the blender's lid to allow steam to escape and loosely cover it with a towel to prevent splatter. Blend on low until smooth, then stir the pureed soup back into the pot.)
5. Ladle the soup into bowls, top with the mango salsa and serve, with extra salsa on the side.

(The Washington Post)

STATISTICS

Table 1. SRI LANKA: Exports of Mattress, Bristle and Twisted Fibers, 2018-2020 (In MT)

Month	Mattress Fiber			Bristle Fiber			Twisted Fiber		
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
January	2,046	3,123	7,141	183	117	127	3,447	2,784	3,225
February	2,094	3,739	2,812	152	175	61	3,695	3,270	2,164
March	2,946	3,883	3,794	218	167	103	4,725	4,315	1,259
April	1,840	2,989	4,640	182	114	68	3,293	2,809	1,894
May	1,575	4,559	4,947	133	80	157	3,133	2,763	2,366
June	1,976	4,321	6,402	75	126	99	2,368	2,578	2,979
July	2,668	6,289	8,202	211	104	84	4,887	2,952	3,440
August	3,544	5,601	7,129	186	88	103	3,779	2,949	2,814
September	4,196	4,649	6,443	150	141	115	3,442	2,529	2,643
October	3,262	4,112	7,514	206	100	121	2,619	2,317	2,997
November	1,999	4,251	6,355	86	75	105	2,526	2,176	2,605
December	2,904	4,372	6,225	243	146	87	3,137	2,108	2,347
Total	**31,050**	**51,888**	**71,604**	**2,025**	**1,433**	**1,231**	**41,051**	**33,550**	**30,733**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

Table 2. SRI LANKA: Monthly Export Prices of Mattress, Bristle and Twisted Fibers, 2018-2020 (US$/MT, FOB Colombo)

Month	Mattress Fiber			Bristle Fiber			Twisted Fiber		
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
January	337	273	244	1,748	1,633	1,421	316	377	317
February	316	267	259	1,626	1,384	1,240	336	369	306
March	319	268	228	1,723	1,639	1,467	281	341	337
April	314	260	244	1,834	1,549	1,369	365	325	273
May	341	259	248	1,686	2,040	1,379	396	321	297
June	354	256	244	2,290	1,771	1,377	562	340	313
July	319	242	239	1,588	1,534	1,586	349	310	306
August	309	259	236	1,677	1,538	1,529	444	307	304
September	290	242	235	1,577	1,679	1,266	361	337	329
October	275	241	243	1,845	1,462	1,450	378	341	302
November	295	231	242	1,238	1,347	1,441	359	325	315
December	289	240	249	1,636	1,754	1,395	528	315	336
Average	**315**	**253**	**243**	**1,712**	**1,611**	**1,410**	**377**	**334**	**311**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

Table 3. SRI LANKA: Exports of Yarn, Twine and Pith, 2018-2020 (In MT)

Month	Coir Yarn			Coir Twine			Fiber Pith		
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
January	148	112	65	845	711	1,000	16,079	3,698	3,069
February	120	114	114	796	635	463	16,910	2,790	3,326
March	126	73	56	614	649	181	19,623	5,101	2,694
April	78	99	38	441	535	97	13,248	3,052	1,904
May	58	138	78	534	620	461	16,843	3,830	3,914
June	59	91	83	680	455	625	13,848	3,608	4,367
July	189	73	124	898	920	806	15,468	3,280	4,225
August	180	56	96	717	646	722	17,273	1,825	2,873
September	118	132	113	672	691	842	16,091	2,036	2,758
October	108	105	83	775	812	935	4,686	1,751	3,604
November	101	125	111	849	974	647	2,516	1,815	2,864
December	119	64	32	708	648	489	3,193	2,464	2,928
Total	**1,404**	**1,181**	**993**	**8,529**	**8,296**	**7,268**	**155,778**	**35,250**	**38,526**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

Table 4. SRI LANKA: Monthly Export Prices of Yarn, Twine and Pith, 2018-2020 (US$/MT, FOB Colombo)

Month	Coir Yarn			Coir Twine			Fiber Pith		
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
January	664	920	1,025	1,145	1,078	1,325	343	276	227
February	892	1,071	913	1,072	1,075	1,331	585	271	225
March	828	940	881	961	1,039	1,308	352	260	241
April	1,085	987	882	1,081	1,254	1,223	370	281	252
May	1,245	887	819	1,255	1,304	1,230	351	271	252
June	855	883	832	984	1,380	1,326	379	306	266
July	880	1,011	874	1,128	1,355	1,353	388	289	249
August	725	829	656	1,016	1,392	1,342	388	258	279
September	672	955	678	1,144	1,276	1,352	394	238	259
October	981	1,096	713	1,153	1,321	1,272	312	224	238
November	706	908	932	1,034	1,319	1,318	243	239	253
December	893	1,065	774	1,098	1,318	1,296	238	228	252
Average	**867**	**963**	**832**	**1,089**	**1,259**	**1,306**	**373**	**262**	**249**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

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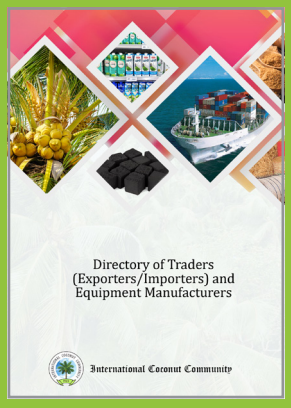

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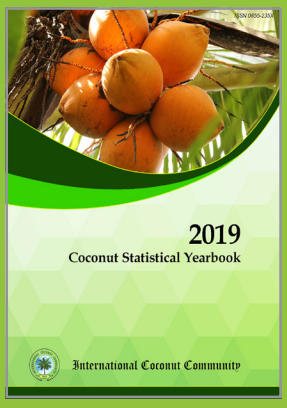

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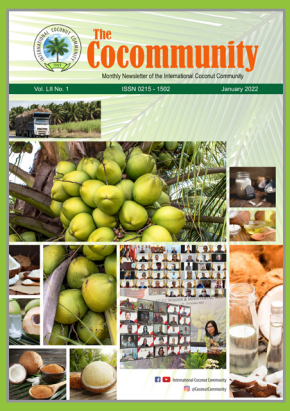

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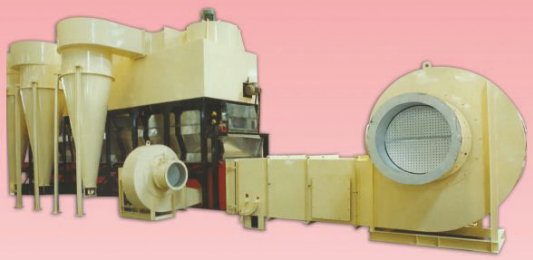
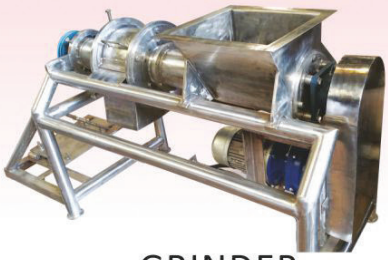
Toasted D/C & Parings.
Output Capacity : 300 to 1000 Kgs/hr.



VIBRATORY FLUID BED DRYER

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

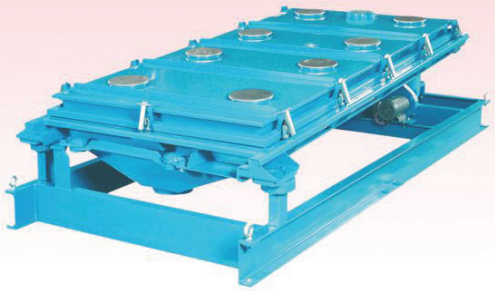


GRINDER

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

GEM

GEMTECH PROJECTS LLP.

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

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