The Cocommunity

Monthly Newsletter of the International Coconut Community

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International Coconut Community

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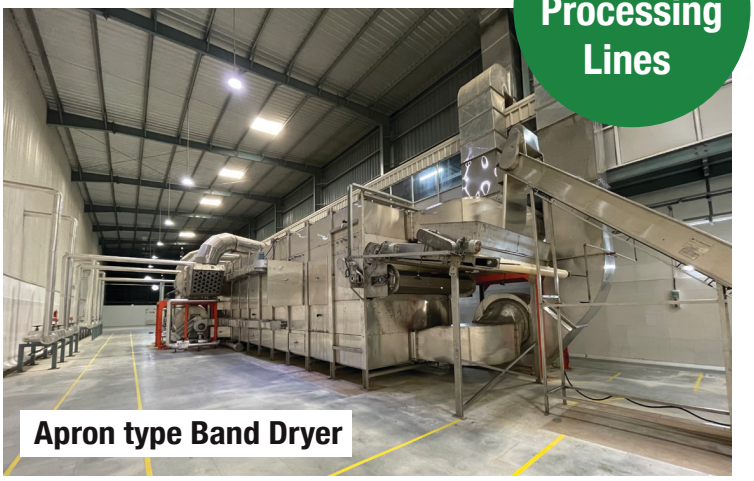

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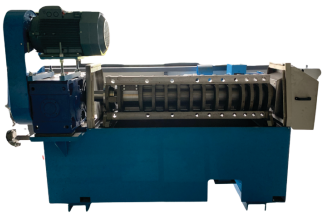

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"Coconut Husk: Current and Future Renewable Energy & Biodegradable Products"

Sustainability is an imperative principle in coconut sector, with three main aspects, namely economic (resilience, competitiveness, efficiency, and innovation), social (welfare and affordability), and environment (low carbon emission, zero waste and biodiversity). The unprecedented COVID-19 should not slow down the spirit to implement coconut sustainability. Pandemics should be able to encourage the national coconut industry to be able to adapt and overcome various challenges both internally and externally (global market trends) and be able to show existence in the global coconut product market.

Among coconut products, husk-based products are the least used, although they are abundant in most coconut producing countries. India and Sri Lanka are two major producers and exporters of coconut husk-based products. The market demand for these products continues to increase due to various applications in agriculture and animal bedding, mattresses, insulation, erosion control, mosquito control, webbing and coir boards for various household uses. Plastic pollution is ubiquitous in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Plastic waste that is exposed to the environment is a serious problem that requires significant attention for all forms of life. Therefore, this global problem must be tackled collectively with top priority. Many types of coir products such as coir pots and coir baskets are environmentally friendly substitutes for plastic products.

Another potential product that can be generated from coconut husk is bioethanol. Production of bioethanol from coconut husk may be an alternative for rural development to increase energy security and reduce the environmental impact of husk disposal. To make this possible, collaborative research and development is critical to generate a simple, effective and low-cost process. Renewable energy could partially replace fossil fuels and supply about two-thirds of total global energy demand, and contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions thereby limiting the average global surface temperature rise to below 2°C in the current timeframe to 2050. Water pollution has also become a serious environmental problem worldwide and is caused by the addition of certain concentrations of chemical, physical or biological substances, either naturally or by man-made. In recent years, research has focused on coconut husk as adsorbents because they are renewable, biodegradable, environmentally friendly, and inexpensive. So, coconut husk could be used in industrial waste water treatments. A holistic view of resources, research and technology gaps, and policy can help to optimally use coconut husk in addressing global issues, and fix some of the shortcomings encountered. Coconut is undoubtedly a tree for many lives so it is reasonable that the sector should consistently receive high priority ranking in agriculture development program of coconut producing countries.

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

COPRA: The price of copra in Indonesia was US$1,001/MT in January 2022, which was higher than previous month's price. Compared to the same month of last year the price was US$ 167/MT higher.

In the domestic market of the Philippines (Manila), the price increased by US$ 98/MT from US$941/MT to US$1,039/MT. The price was US$103/MT higher compared to the price of US$936/MT in January 2021.

In Sri Lanka, price of copra was increased from US$1,564/MT in December 2021 to US$1,691/MT in January 2022.

COCONUT OIL: The average price of coconut oil in Europe (C.I.F. Rotterdam) for January 2022 was increased at US$2,033/MT in January 2022. This price was higher by 28% as opposed to the price in January 2021 at US$1,463/MT.

The average local price of coconut oil in the Philippines in January 2022 was no quoted.

The FOB price of coconut oil in Indonesia in January 2022 leveled up by US$40/MT compared to the previous month from US$1,587/MT to US$1,627/MT. January 2022 price was US$257/MT higher than the price of the same month of 2021 which was US$1,370/MT.

COPRA MEAL: The average domestic price of the commodity in the Philippines was quoted at US$214/MT. The price was US$12/MT higher compared to the previous month and was US$34/MT lower than the last year price for the same month.

The average domestic price of copra meal in Indonesia was US$303/MT which was lower than previous month price. The price was US$5/MT higher than last year's price in the same month.

DESICCATED COCONUT: The average price of desiccated coconut (DC) FOB USA in January 2022 was US$2,557/MT, which was higher than previous month price and US$51/MT higher than the price of the same month last year.

In Sri Lanka, the domestic price of desiccated coconut in January 2022 was US$2,603/MT or US$93/MT higher than in December 2021. Meanwhile, the price of DC in the domestic market of Philippines in January 2022 was US$2,039/MT which was the same as price in December 2021 but slightly lower than prince in January 2021. Indonesian price of DC in January 2022 was lower than in December 2021, and was higher compared to last year's price of US$2,230/MT.

COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL: In Philippines, the average price of the commodity in December 2021 was US$407/MT which was lower than previous month's price. Meanwhile, Indonesia's charcoal price slightly increased from US$592/MT in December 2021 to US$593/MT in January 2022. Moreover, compared to last year's price, the price was lower by US$7/MT. Sri Lankan's price in January 2022 was US$501/MT which was lower than last month's price.

COIR FIBRE: Coir fiber was traded in the domestic market in Sri Lanka at US$124/MT for mix fiber and US$575/MT-US$778/MT for bristle. The Indonesian price for mixed raw fiber was US$220/MT in January 2022 which was the same as price in December 2021.

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

Products/Country	2022 Jan	2021 Dec	2021 Jan	2022 (Annual Ave.)
Dehusked Coconut				
Philippines (Domestic)	210	213	221	210
Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use)	223	223	227	223
Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use)	297	283	n.q.	297
India (Domestic Kerala)	489	533	699	489
Copra				
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	1,039	941	936	1,039
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	1,001	948	834	1,001
Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo)	1,691	1,564	1,507	1,691
India (Dom. Kochi)	1,255	1,335	1,777	1,255
Coconut Oil				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	2,033	1,782	1,463	2,033
Philippines (Domestic)	n.q.	n.q.	n.q.	n.q.
Indonesia (Domestic)	1,627	1,587	1,370	1,627
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	3,168	2,985	2,673	3,168
India (Domestic, Kerala)	2,129	2,228	2,807	2,129
Desiccated Coconut				
Philippines FOB (US), Seller	2,557	2,546	2,506	2,557
Philippines (Domestic)	2,039	2,039	2,040	2,039
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	2,603	2,510	3,084	2,603
Indonesia (FOB)	2,240	2,450	2,230	2,240
India (Domestic)	1,850	n.q.	2,382	1,850
Copra Meal Exp. Pel.				
Philippines (Domestic)	214	202	248	214
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	302	297	293	302
Indonesia (Domestic)	303	309	298	303
Coconut Shell Charcoal				
Philippines (Domestic), Buyer	407	430	440	407
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	501	531	478	501
Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer	593	592	600	593
India (Domestic)	537	531	558	537
Coir Fibre				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre)	124	108	111	124
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	575	546	526	575
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	778	869	878	778
Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre)	220	220	300	220
Other Oil				
Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	2,196	1,861	1,372	2,196
Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	1,345	1,270	990	1,345
Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill)	1,470	1,411	1,076	1,470

Exchange Rate

Jan 31, '22 1 US$ = P51.14 or Rp14,371 or India Rs74.62 or SL Rs203.03

1 Euro = US$1.12 n.q. = *no quote*

MARKET REVIEW OF DESICCATED COCONUT

Global market of desiccated coconut (DC) showed a recovering trend in 2021 after facing many challenges during last one and half year due to Covid-19 pandemic which caused delays in shipments and disruption in production. Imports of the products by the main importing region such as European Union and US was increasing during 2021. US imports of desiccated coconut jumped by 30% from 41,056 tons in 2020 to 53,568 tons in 2021. Similarly, demand of desiccated coconut by European countries was increasing as well. European countries received 116,284 tons of desiccated coconut during the period of January-November 2021 which was 8% higher as opposed to the previous year's volume.

Following the higher demand, supply of DC was improving as production were getting better. Export supply of DC from Philippines, the largest exporting country, increased to level of 149,107 MT during January-November 2021. The export volume went up by 10% compared to the same period in 2020. It should be noted that Philippines experienced a lower export of DC in 2020. Other main supplying countries, Indonesia and Sri Lanka was also showed a positive signal of recovering. During January-December 2021, Indonesia sent 139,934 tons of DC to global market which was 9% higher compared to the previous year's export volume. Indonesia kept maintaining a positive trend of DC export in the

Figure 1. USA and European Union Imports of DC (MT), 2020-2021

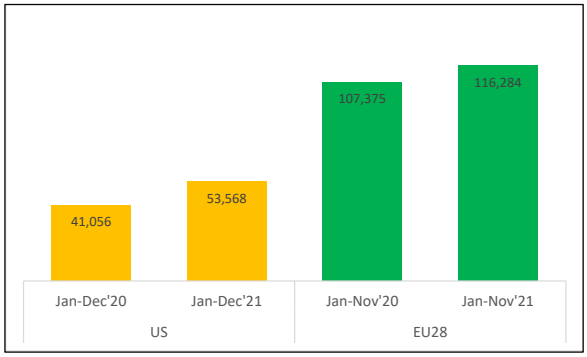


Figure 2. Export Volume (MT) of DC from Philippines, Indonesia and Sri Lanka, 2020-2021

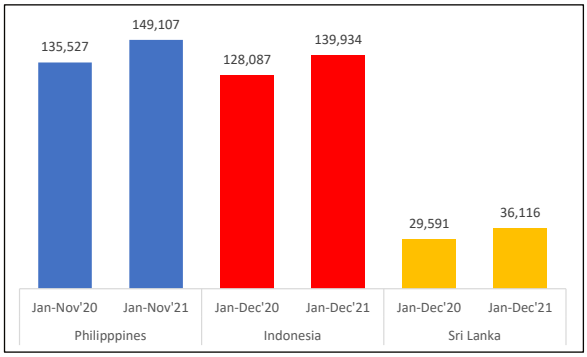
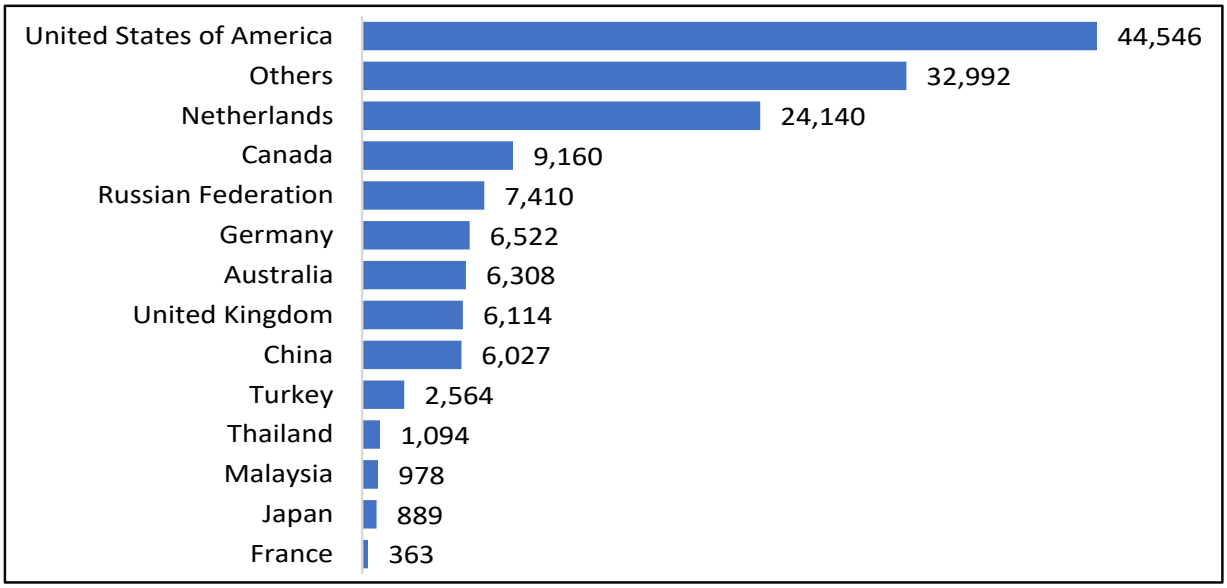


Figure 3. Export Destination of DC from Philippines, January - November 2021



last three years. Moreover, Sri Lanka shipped 36,116 tons of DC to global destinations. The export volume was 22% higher than 2021's export volume.

European countries and US are still the major destinations for desiccated coconut. During January-November 2021, Philippines shipped more than 91 thousand tons of DC to Europe and US market. The export volume was accounted for more than 60% of DC exports from the Philippines. In Asia, China was a fastest growing market for DC from the Philippines.

Meanwhile, Asia and Europe are the major destinations for DC from Indonesia. Singapore is the main hub for DC from Indonesia. During January-December 2021 30,276 MT of DC was shipped to Singapore. It constituted for more than 21% of the total export volume of DC from Indonesia during the period. In Europe, Germany, Russia, and Netherlands were the largest importing countries during the year. They received 13,250 tons, 10,328 tons, and 7,740 tons respectively.

Price of desiccated coconut remained strong during the year of 2021. Average price of DC from Philippines (FOB US) was US$2,521/MT which was 14% higher as opposed to last year's price. The highest price was US$2,548/MT in November 2021 and the lowest was US$2,495/MT in September 2021. Similarly, price of DC from Indonesia showed a positive trend since Augusts 2019. During 2021, average price of DC from Indonesia was US$2,350/MT which was higher by 17% as opposed to the previous year's price. Likewise, in Sri Lanka, price of DC showed an increasing trend during the year of 2021. On average, price was 6% higher compared to the preceding year's price.

Figure 4. Export Destination of DC from Indonesia, January-December 2021

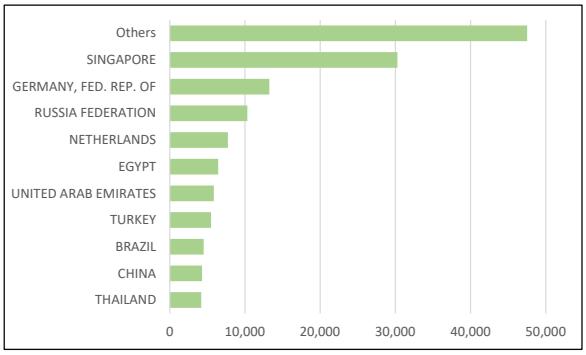
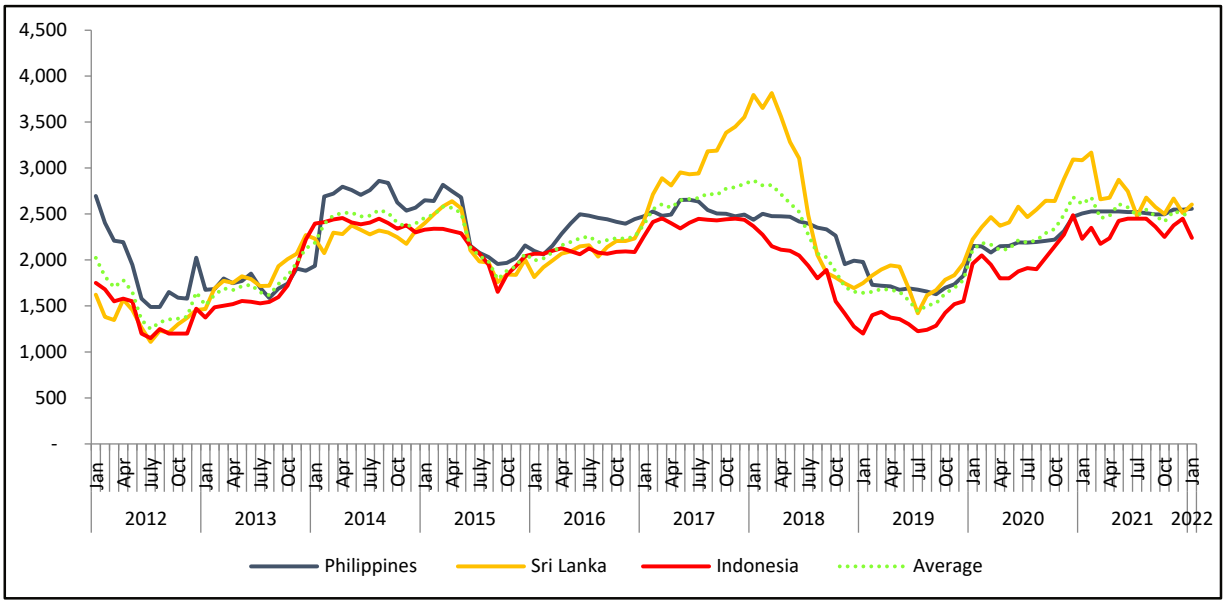


Figure 5. Monthly Price of Desiccated Coconut (US$/MT), January 2012- January 2022



COMMUNITY NEWS

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION (FGD) ON COCONUT SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

In order to develop the economic potential of the people in Riau Province, especially coconut plantations, the Riau Province Government through the Research and Development Planning Agency (Bappedalitbang) hold a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with the International Coconut Community (ICC), at the Bappedalitbang Office, Riau, on Wednesday 26 January 2022. Head of Riau Bappedalitbang, Ir. Emri Juli Harnis, M.T, Ph.D. said that the Riau Provincial Government has the greatest potential in the field of the largest coconut plantations in Indonesia. Riau is the largest coconut-producing area in Indonesia. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the agricultural sector in Indonesia still showed positive growth. This is a potential that needs to be developed related to the potential possessed by Riau Province, especially coconut.

To optimize coconut development in Riau Province, the Riau Provincial Government invited the ICC in this FGD to get an updated picture of the condition of coconut plantations in Indonesia and Riau in particular, the constraints, opportunities and development potential, so that Riau coconut can become an economic commodity that does not only benefit the local community, but can also open a network of cooperation to become actors in the coconut industry in Indonesia and the world. Through this meeting, the Riau Provincial Government also wanted to get input, so that it can develop an action plan on how the pattern of developing coconut plantations in Riau Province will go in the future. Besides, the ICC Executive Director, Jelfina Constansje Alouw, this discussion was attended by the Head of Cooperation and Utilization of Research Results (KSPHP) of the Plantation Research and Development Center, Tedy Dirhamsyah.

Riau Province is having the largest coconut plantation area in Indonesia. The area of commodity plantations in Riau Province reaches 3,731,183 hectares. Of the plantation area, 426,579 hectares are coconut plantations. The coconut plantations in Riau is 11.4 percent of the total plantation area. Out of this, young coconut plantations are 22,201 hectares, while mature coconut plantations are 332,281 hectares, and old senile palm plantations, covers 72,097 hectares, which is are the challenge in Riau.

In his speech, the Governor of Riau Drs. H. Syamsuar, M.Si. said "We invited the Executive Director of ICC to together with us examine the constraints, potentials and opportunities of Riau coconut. So that it can become an economic commodity that not only benefits our local people, but Riau can become one of the coconut industry players in Indonesia and the world."

There are many opportunities for the development of coconut potential in Riau. The downstream processing commodity is a challenge faced by local government, because Riau is the only supplier of coconut. In fact, the opportunities for processed coconut products with high added value such as coir, shells, coconut drinks, coconut milk, and others are very wide open.

According to Mr. Syamsuar, it is necessary to increase the capacity of Riau coconut farmers and to seize export marketing opportunities, through collaboration with ICC. "We hope that ICC can support us in product marketing and downstream product development from coconut. This includes helping farmers capacity development in coconut cultivation," explained Syamsuar.

ICC Executive Director, Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, appreciated Syamsuar's passion for coconut development in Riau. Dr. Jelfina mentioned that the Governor's invitation to Riau to examine the potential of coconut after the online meeting was a quick step of the Governor to seize the

opportunity. "I appreciate the quick action, which is very strategic. ICC is ready to help in product promotion, facilitate capacity development, and transfer technology," Dr. Jelfina concluded. *(ICC News)*

LARGEST COCONUT PRODUCING DISTRICT IN INDONESIA: FROM INDRAGIRI HILIR, RIAU TO THE WORLD

Indragiri Hilir is the largest coconut producing district in Riau Province and Indonesia. Coconuts from this area are distributed to the coconut industry across the region, and also exported to Malaysia and Thailand. The high demand for coconut products from the global market and low coconut production have prompted local and central governments to urgently take action plans to increase coconut production and improve farmers' livelihoods through the production of high-value-added products.

In continuation of the official visit of ICC's Executive Director, Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw and Market and Statistics Officer, Mr. Alit Pirmansah to Riau to attend the Forum Group Discussion (FGD), the ICC and provincial teams and the associations of Indonesian Agricultural Scholars visited Tembilahan, the capital of Indragiri Hilir to see the potential of coconut development, challenges, and possible strategies to address some of the problems. The team was warmly welcomed by the regent and his team. After a fruitful discussion, the team visited a coconut nursery run by a farmer group that produces thousands of certified seeds each year. One coconut variety named Sri Gemilang has been officially released as a national superior variety that is adaptive to tidal areas. Some local superior varieties have been propagated. However, there is still an urgent need to accelerate the availability of desired seeds for senile coconut replanting programs in the region and nationally. Implementation of good agricultural practices and intercrops planting in the area is also recommended.

Also visited several MSMEs that produce white copra and one company that is just starting to utilize coconut fiber for sleeping mattresses and further produces coconut husk-based furniture. Coconut husks are used by local people as land cover due to the intrusion of seawater to land. Large amounts of the coir are available which can be processed into coconut fiber, peat and other products and can be marketed. During a meeting with the general manager of Bigland, one of the large companies that produce spring beds in Indonesia and now processes beds using cocofiber. The team were informed of their plans to buy coconut fiber from a farmer group in Indragiri Hilir as material for furniture. This plan could add value to coconuts and potentially increase farmers' incomes.

The central government through President Joko Widodo, and the Minister of Agriculture, Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs and Investment have shown their interest in supporting sustainable coconut development in Indonesia. From Indragiri Hilir, Riau, Indonesia to the world, which is the local government's motto for coconut development in their region. *(ICC News)*

ACROSS CHINA: COCONUT CHICKEN HOTPOT HEATS UP BUSINESSES IN CHINA'S HAINAN

Boasting delicate coconut, sweet coconut juice, and tender chicken meat, the Hainan coconut chicken hotpot has gained a tasty reputation across China. Now it is giving steam to major industries in the tropical island province of Hainan.

A Hainan coconut chicken hotpot meal usually comes with some fresh Hainan coconut, coconut juice, seasoning, ingredients like water chestnuts, and the meat of a type of chicken known as the Wenchang chicken -- those raised in Hainan's Wenchang City, a place most famous for its tender chicken meat.

As the traditional Spring Festival draws near, the Hainan (Tanniu) Wenchang Chicken Co., Ltd. each day churns out three times more chickens and coconut chicken hotpot packages than usual. The company is located in the provincial capital Haikou and operates in Haikou and Wenchang.

Its slaughterhouse in Haikou is rolling at full speed in the middle of the night. Workers are busy sealing chickens and half-prepared hotpot packages for restaurants and supermarkets in and outside Hainan.

Hainan produced about 110 million Wenchang chickens worth about 12 billion yuan (1.89 billion U.S. dollars) last year. About 80 percent of the Wenchang chickens were sold for Hainan coconut chicken hotpot meals.

Riding on the popularity of Hainan coconut chicken hotpots, the Tanniu company is tasting the sweetness of success. In 2018, only 5 percent of its products were shipped outside Hainan. These days, however, the number has jumped to 30 percent, as the company expands its business across the country.

The coconut industry is also thriving

For Hainan Lyukang Siji Food Co., Ltd., selling coconuts and coconut juice for these hotpot meals brings in more than 1 million yuan in monthly sales revenue.

"In the past, local farmers usually just grew coconut trees around their houses," said Chen Huahui, who is in charge of the company. "Now people are growing coconut trees on a big scale."

Chen said that coconut prices are rising as demand mounts.

"To guarantee coconut supplies, we are working with local farmers to build coconut planting bases," Chen added.

"We are working to further increase businesses by expanding our supply chains," said Zhang Xuli, general manager of the Tanniu company. "We will consider building processing bases outside Hainan, and by increasing our scale, we hope to help farmers gain more benefits." *(Xinhua)*

FARM ARMY TO BATTLE ISSUES IN COCONUT CULTIVATION

As a solution to farmers' issues regarding coconut cultivation, the officials of Kazhakootam Krishi Bhavan have decided to launch a farm army.

The farm army will include both men and women who are physically healthy and capable of climbing coconut trees. For this, the interested labourers will be given training to enhance coconut farming. The farmers can contact the farm army for all activities regarding coconut farming in the wards, including Kazhakootam, Chanthavila and Kattaikonam. The services, including manuring, weed and pest prevention, and planting new saplings will be available. The labourers will be paid an amount of Rs 100 per tree. The budget for the scheme is Rs 50 lakhs.

"I have seen a large number of people complaining about the diseases of coconut trees. All I could do was to prescribe medicines for that. But in order to apply the medicines to the affected part, they have to climb the tree. But almost all the farmers are not able to climb the tree. So, we have decided to help them by providing labourers for coconut farming. In order for the coconut cultivation to thrive, we need to start from the very bottom. That is why training is provided at the ward level. In addition to recovering old coconut trees, new coconut seedlings will also be planted,''said Deepa S, agriculture officer of Kazhakootam Krishi Bhavan.

The rhinoceros beetles parasitizing in the tender part of the coconut tree results in bud rot disease and the tree will get destroyed. The beetles live in the stagnant cow dung. The agricultural department has also come up with

a solution to resolve this issue by introducing the cultivation of trichoderma mushrooms in cow dung. The trichoderma is a fungus with antagonistic effects. It has the ability to fight against other fungus. Thus, this will also prevent the tree from bud rot diseases.

The livestock farmers are being trained to make trichoderma from the stagnant cow dung. This has also given them an opportunity to get an income and can also avoid hassle caused by stagnant cow dung. The manure thus made will be paid an amount of Rs 15 per kilogram. *(The Times of India)*

INDIAN BOTANIC GARDEN'S DOUBLE COCONUT TREE FACES EXTINCTION

The Double Coconut Tree (Lodoicea maldivica) at the Indian Botanic Garden, which underwent a cross-country pollination in 2013 appears to be dying. Though garden authorities are hopeful that the tree will survive but yellowing leaves and the general appearance of the tree seem to suggest otherwise.

Besides, the seed borne out of the cross-pollination has not germinated, which means that the rare species will soon be extinct in the country.

Scientists of the garden said the plant had had a fungal attack and tried to treat it with fungicide.

"Unfortunately, the crown of the tree suffered a fungal attack two to three years ago. This took a heavy toll on its health. As it is a coconut tree and has only one trunk, growth has almost stopped. The seed that had been harvested has also not germinated," said Ashiho Asosii Mao, the director of the Botanical Survey of India.

He is now trying to get a new plant from Seychelles Islands, the home of the Double Coconut Tree.

Lodoicea maldivica is the largest seed-bearing plant so far described in the plant kingdom. The fruits weigh about 50 pounds at maturity. The seed looks like two coconut seeds fused together, for which the name stands the 'Double-Coconut'.

The species is indigenous to only two of the 115 Seychelles Islands. They have historically been found floating in the west Indian Ocean being known to the explorers long before the parent plants were discovered and later described from Maldive Islands. It is also called 'Coco-de-Mer' (coconut of the sea) for such nature and belief that the fruits from Seychelles Islands reached to the Maldives through sea, where it was germinated and later on described.

This giant palm survives about 1,000 years. The male and female plants are different (dioecious). It is a female plant that was introduced in India and planted only in AJC Bose Indian Botanic Garden in 1894.

A leaf takes about a year for full spread and maturity. A full-grown leaf at its greatest spread can be used to thatch a hut. The fruit takes nearly five to seven years to mature, remain dormant for 10 years and takes at least three years to germinate. Successful fruit setting had been achieved in this palm through artificial pollination by procuring pollen from Nong Nooch Tropical Garden, Thailand in 2013. Recently, in February, 2020, the first two mature fruits were harvested from this tree.

"When the tree was 94 years old, it produced flowers for the first time. When we came to know it was a female plant, we started searching for a male . The nearest male was traced in the Royal Botanic Garden of Sri Lanka. Pollen of the male flower was brought in to artificially pollinate the plant in 2006. But the efforts failed. In 2013, we tried again with pollen from another male from Thailand. This time it worked and the tree bore fruits," said H.S. Debnath, former director of the garden. *(Telegraph India)*

MOST OF SANJIVANI RYOTS OPT FOR COCONUT, TUBER CROP

Most of the sugarcane farmers attached to the Sanjivani Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana at Dayanandnagar Tiska in Dharbandora taluka have switched to growing coconut trees and tuber crops. Following the shutting down of the sugar factory since 2019, the state government had assured them that they will pay the compensation even if the farmers change their crop.

Factory administrator Chintamani Perni said maximum farmers have cultivated coconut trees, areca nut palms, tuber crops and bananas.

The government has paid over 25 such farmers who have changed the crop. *(The Times of India)*

EXPLORE COCONUT'S POTENTIAL FOR CARBON SEQUESTRATION

The carbon sequestration potential of coconut must be explored seriously, says AK Singh, Deputy Director General (Horticultural Sciences), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

Delivering a virtual address at the 106th foundation day of the Kasaragod-based Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Singh said coconut sequesters 15 tonnes of carbon dioxide per hectare per year. "This is huge compared to other crops that occupy a large area," he said.

He called for adopting high-density multiple cropping system to step up the quantity of carbon dioxide sequestration.

If the UN comes out with a programme on carbon credits, this crop will be one of the biggest beneficiaries in India, he said.

On CPCRI's focus on coconut and arecanut, he said these crops have a significant role in carbon sequestration, and this must be tapped effectively.

Stressing that research institutes should actively adopt new technology tools, Singh said there will be more thrust on technologies in the agricultural sector for greater efficiency in breeding, management and so on.

He said that gene editing had reached unexpected levels in some crops and the Government might take a view on gene editing in the days to come. A committee on this has submitted its report to the Government. "We have to rededicate ourselves to the increased application of new tools," he said.

He urged institutes such as CPCRI to bring at least 15-20 per cent area under natural farming and collect more data on it.

Calling for continuous monitoring of soil mediums at the institute level, he said such information will offer helpful insights when natural farming gains momentum. *(The Hindu Business Line)*

COCONUT FARMERS REAP MORE THROUGH SECRET AUCTION

Ove a tonne of copra was auctioned through the secret auction for coconuts at the Vadipatti regulated market.

Secretary of the marketing committee, V Mercy Jeyarani said that the farmers were benefiting more after they started the secret auction in the market for the first time on August 17, 2020. It was then initiated in Melur in September the same year and then from November 17 onwards in the sub-market in Kottampatti. The farmers stand to benefit more because they do not have to give 150 coconuts as commission to the agents and

they get the payment for their auctioned coconuts immediately. Farmers are asked to segregate their coconuts based on quality into the best, medium and rejected and they are auctioned accordingly.

The best bidder gets the coconuts and if two people quote the same price, the person who bids first is given the coconuts. *(The Times of India)*

BENGALURU-BASED MALAYALI OFFERS 18,001 GHEE-FILLED COCONUTS AT SABRIMALA

A Bengaluru-based Malayali businessman made 18,001 ghee-filled coconuts as offering at the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple, which is the highest ever.

The devotee, identified as Vishnu Sharan Bhatt, made the offering at a cost of Rs 18 lakh. It was for the first time that this many ghee coconuts were offered by a devotee at the temple, the temple authorities informed.

Ghee coconut is one of the main offerings at the hill shrine. It requires 2,280 kilograms of ghee and 7.5 tonnes of coconuts. Ten priests had taken couple of days to fill the ghee in the coconuts and it was transported to the hill shrine in tractors.

The devotee was not present while making the offering. Instead his relatives and friends were present. *(Deccan Herald)*

PCA SENDS 15K COCO SEEDNUTS TO 'ODETTE'-HIT AREAS

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) has started shipping out some 15,000 coconut seednuts for the farmers affected by Typhoon Odette.

The PCA said it that coordinated with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to deliver seednuts using military trucks.

AFP's Civil Relations Service and Southern Luzon Command said it transported some 6,000 coconut hybrids (MRDxTAG), 3,000 dwarf coconut seednuts and planting materials to Palawan.

The PCA-Calabarzon has also committed to sending 20 units of chainsaw as support for timely debris management and lumber utilization.

The PCA has been working nonstop to assist coconut farmers whose plantations were devastated by "Odette".

Of the estimated PHP10-billion damage in the agriculture sector, PHP1.58 billion are in the coconut sector as 10 million coconut trees were totally damaged by the typhoon, according to data shared.

Apart from farm recovery assistance, the PCA has also coordinated with the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) to guarantee the rehabilitation of farmers and their families.

While the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) provides temporary employment to chainsaw operators, haulers, and helpers through a cash-for-work program, coconut lumbers will be turned over to the DHSUD to be used for the construction of temporary housing facilities. *(Philippine News Agency)*

NACOPPAM INAUGURATES ENUGU CHAPTER, HINTS AT 2M COCONUT TREES NATIONWIDE

The National Coconut Producers, Processors and Marketers Association of Nigeria (NACOPPAM), has inaugurated its Enugu State chapter with election of new executives to run the affairs of the state branch.

Speaking at the swearing ceremony of the new executives of NACOPPAM, the National President Dr Nma Okoroji said Nigeria could earn more foreign exchange through coconut than oil in the nearest future.

A statement issued by the Publicity Secretary of the state chapter, Mr Ugwu Nnabuike, said Dr Nma Okoroji urged the executives to popularise the planting of coconut by both the Enugu State Government and the farmers in the state in order to position Enugu State in the global map through the coconut sub-sector thus ensuring the actualisation of NACOPPAM's policy of Coconut Sufficiency In Nigeria COSIN.

Dr Okoroji an agronomist emphasised that the national body envisaged plan to midwife 10,000 hectares (two million coconut trees) of coconut plantations and to develop a robust value chain in each of the 36 states of the federation and Abuja.

She regretted that Nigeria was spending so much on importation of coconut while it could be grown in the country and exported to rake in the much desired foreign currencies.

In his remarks, a notable agriculturist and farmer Alhaji Sani Nnaji who is also the National Deputy President of NACOPPAM, who had encouraged mass farming in the entire Isi-Uzo Local Government communities including owning farm plantations up Northern parts of the country, advised the people of the state to show more interest in farming as agriculture was the key adding that the soil is very fertile and would yield tremendous harvests.

Alhaji Sani Nnaji broke down the statistics and expected revenue from coconut describing them as enormous and very profitable.

In her welcome speech earlier, the new Chairman, Mrs Lizzy Alaribe assured that the state branch had been proactive and was interfacing with the state Commissioner for Agriculture and that the chapter was optimistic of receiving a favorable response from the request for land by NACOPPAM for massive coconut farming and plantations.

The following officers who are also farmers, were elected to run the affairs of the Enugu State chapter:- Chairman, Mrs Lizzy Alaribe, who had been the moving force and coordinator, Deputy Chairman, Chief Obinwa Nnaji, General Secretary Mrs Iheoma Okorie, Financial Secretary, Engineer Ostia Ugwueze, Treasurer Mrs Mercy Nwosu, Publicity Secretary Mr Ugwu Nnabuike, Assistant Secretary Mr Chika Abonyi, Assistant Financial Secretary Mr Kenneth Agbo, and Assistant Publicity Secretary Hon Emmanuel Eze. *(The Nation)*

COCONUTS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM LANKA SATHOSA AT A FIXED PRICE OF RS. 75 THROUGHOUT THE YEAR - TRADE MINISTER

The Minister of Trade Dr. Bandula Gunawardena stated that consumers can obtain coconuts through the Lanka Sathosa outlet network at a fixed price of Rs. 75 throughout this year.

With the aim of providing coconuts to the consumers at a lower price with the increase in the price of coconuts in the country, the Ministry of Plantation Industries and the Coconut Research Institute have entered into an agreement with the Ministry of Trade and the Lanka Sathosa outlet network.

Accordingly, this project will be launched in the Colombo District as a pilot project, the Minister said speaking at a media briefing.

The Minister said a coconut will be sold at a fixed price of Rs. 75. While the prices of coconuts sold through Lanka Sathosa will come down in the future if market coconut prices fall, the fixed price will remain if the market prices increase, he said.

Speaking on the occasion Minister of Plantation Dr. Ramesh Pathirana stated that

steps have been taken to increase production in line with the current demand for coconut and coconut related products.

The Minister also said that according to the forecasts made so far, it is planned to generate more than one billion dollars in revenue from coconut related products and to market the products required to fully meet the local demand. As one of the steps, arrangements have been made to sell these coconuts through Lanka Sathosa, he further said.

The agreement was signed by Chairman of Lanka Sathosa Rear Admiral Ananda Peiris and Chairman of the Coconut Research Institute Saranga Alahapperuma. *(Colombo Page)*

DAR PUSHES FOR COCONUT FARM CLUSTERING IN NORTH COTABATO TOWN

The Department of Agrarian Reform and the local government unit (LGU) of Aleosan, North Cotabato, have formalized ties to boost the income of coconut farmers through a collective market scheme.

Under the "Linking Smallholder Farmers into Market with Microfinance," or LinkSFarMM, project, the DAR and LGU of Aleosan will organize hundreds of coconut farmers to build a strong and reliable cluster of coconut farmers that would serve as potential suppliers in the collective marketing business of their coconut products.

Around 700 hectares of coconut farms are expected to be grouped into different clusters as part of the project.

Provincial LinkSFarMM Project Point Person Carylmark C. Bajao said during the recent cluster leaders' training, that organizing farmers into clusters would give them greater opportunities in finding institutional buyers and higher prices for their copra, whole nuts, and other coconut products.

LinkSFarMM is an innovative program of the DAR to make smallholder farmers increase agricultural productivity and effectively manage their agricultural production by applying a value chain process.

Aleosan Municipal Agriculturist Jimmy Basas said they are expecting more or less a thousand coconut farmers to be involved in the collective marketing scheme.

"We are amazed at the outcome of the LinkSFarMM project implemented by the DAR and we have also seen the impact in the lives of the cardava banana farmers in Aleosan which propelled us in replicating the technology to our coconut farmers," Basas said.

The municipality of Aleosan is the first LGU in North Cotabato to replicate the DAR-LinkSFarMM project after the successful implementation of collective marketing on cardava banana handled by the New Leon Multi-purpose Cooperative, a DAR-assisted organization. *(Business Mirror)*

DA ISSUES BULLETIN TO ENSURE QUALITY COPRA PRODUCTION

The Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (DA-BAFS) has released a technical bulletin aimed at ensuring the quality and safety of copra production in the country.

The technical bulletin also highlights the measures in copra production from harvesting to storage and transport, which will help prevent the occurrence of contamination.

Copra is produced by drying the fresh coconut meat.

According to the BAFS, the country exported 304,600 metric tons (MT) of copra oil cake in 2019 valued at $60.8 million.

"Despite this success, food safety and quality issues like aflatoxin contamination and

polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) exposure plague copra production in the Philippines," the BAFS said.

It added that copra contamination is caused by a variety of factors, including insufficient drying, improper handling, and poor storage conditions.

To address these problems, the TB recommended that all personnel involved in copra production should be regularly trained for proper personal hygienic and sanitary practices that must be implemented at all stages of production.

In terms of harvesting, the TB suggests harvesting only mature coconuts which are approximately 10 months old or when the husks start to change color from green to brown.

"Mature coconuts are easier to dry, and the resulting copra will be hard enough to avoid mold and insect infestation. An interval of 45 days between harvesting mature coconuts should be followed," the TB said.

As for husking and splitting, the TB said this should be done in a clean and dry area or cemented floor while using clean tools, equipment, and materials to avoid microbial contamination.

"If splitting cannot be carried out immediately after husking, the husked coconuts should be covered with husks, leaves or fronds to prevent cracking due to direct sun exposure. Cracks or openings serve as entry points for insects and other organisms that can initiate meat spoilage," it said.

Newly split coconuts should also be placed in a clean and dry pavement or in a relatively drier area using appropriate underlays to protect from direct contact with soil.

It also suggests that coconuts that show visible signs and symptoms of insect infestation or microbial contamination should be sorted out and discarded.

"Proper disposal of discarded coconuts is done by placing them in a compost pit away from the production, drying and storage areas," it said.

The TB also issued suggestions on the drying process of copra through solar drying, direct smoke drying and hot air drying.

"Hot air dryers produce high quality grade copra. Hot air dryers prevent direct exposure of fresh coconut meat to fire since these utilize heat exchangers to transfer the heat energy from the firing chamber to the drying chamber. These dryers produce dried copra that is white, clean, and free of smoke, molds, and dirt," the TB said.

The TB also gave suggestions on the packing/ bagging, storing and transport of copra, as well as record keeping or documentation of the entire production process. *(PhilStar Global)*

FARMERS WANT COPRA COSTS SUBSIDISED TO SEE CASH

Copra farmers at Wakunai district, Central Bougainville, are calling on their elected Members of Parliament to help subsidise copra price.

Chief of Niupatoro and Kosiai villages Martin Dau said the farmers are working very hard but are seeing very little money from the crop as the price of the copra including the freight has really skyrocketed leaving them with nothing at the end of the day.

"All we want is for the pay of the copra to atleast go up because it's a very hard labour, the K1.90 per kilo is not enough to sustain us the farmers and our families especially during this time of the year whereby families to pay and send our children to school."

Chief Dau said that when they travel with their cash crop to either Buka or Arawa they are charged K20 or K35 per bag of copra. He added that this is a 'slap on our faces' because we are

working really hard and getting lousy money at the end of the day.

"Therefore I am appealing to you my ABG Member for Rau Constituency, Wakunai district to subsidize the price of the copra for us your local people," Chief Dau said.

"The same appeal goes to the Bougainville Regional Member if you our two leaders can help the burden and plight of your people of Rau Constituency by providing some good price to us as we try to make some money for our families."

He called on the leaders to be innovative and creative to at least negotiate with a copra buying agent to be located at Wakunai especially in the Rau Constituency so that the people will not spend much on the freight of their cash crops to Buka or Arawa.

"The people of Rau Coastal, Upper Aita and Lower Aita, Asigoro and Steamas are really suffering because of the transport fare the PMVs are charging as freight to Buka and Arawa.

"We want you our leaders to put some incentives and whatever funds you have available now can be put into the setting up or our own copra buying company or otherwise get agents of established copra buying companies into areas to heave the burden that we are facing at the moment," Mr Dau said. *(Post-Courier)*

PCA POOLS RESOURCES TO HELP COCO SECTOR RECOVER FROM 'ODETTE'

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) has been working nonstop since last year's onslaught of Typhoon Odette to assist affected plantation areas.

Of the estimated PHP8-billion damage in the agriculture sector, PHP1.58 billion are in the coconut sector, according to data shared.

The PCA said the Quick Response Fund was not enough but they sourced out other forms of assistance through its regional field offices.

Transport assistance was provided by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to deliver 140 chainsaws for the clearing and disposal of damaged coconut trees – 50 to Surigao, 30 to Dinagat Islands, 50 to Southern Leyte, and 10 to other parts of Leyte.

An additional 50 units of reconditioned chainsaws are also ready for deployment to Southern Leyte.

AFP units in Eastern Visayas and Caraga helped transport chainsaws from Tacloban to Surigao.

In partnership with local government units, the PCA supervised debris-clearing to ensure that only the felled and totally damaged trees were cut.

Rehabilitation

The PCA also made necessary arrangements with other national government agencies, such as the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and the military for coordinated and speedy rehabilitation efforts.

The DSWD vowed to provide temporary employment to chainsaw operators, haulers, and helpers through their cash-for-work program; coconut lumbers will be turned over to the DHSUD to be used for the construction of temporary housing facilities; and the AFP shall assist PCA in transporting equipment and supplies.

Regional offices' help

In Region 13 (Caraga), PHP2.95 million in funds were released to support the farmers in Surigao, while PHP1.05 million will go to Dinagat Islands.

In Region 8 (Eastern Visayas), PHP1.066 million will be used to assist the farmers of Southern Leyte.

"These funds are intended to provide short gestation crops and small ruminants to provide food for the families of our farmers and for the consuming public, support the incentivized and participatory planting and replanting project, as well as fertilizers to rehabilitate damaged coconut trees," the PCA stated.

An additional funds of PHP480,000 was also reprogrammed by PCA for the repair of chainsaws and the deployment of generator sets.

There will be a distribution of 152,014 seednuts and seedlings for the eventual replacement of the felled and damaged trees in the severely affected areas. *(Philippine News Agency)*

PM MODI CHEERS TN WOMAN SELLING COCONUTS FOR DONATING ₹1L TO SCHOOL

During his address on the first episode of this year's 'Mann Ki Baat', Prime Minister Narendra Modi applauded the inclination towards education of a Tamil Nadu woman, who donated ₹1 lakh for the improvement of a school by selling coconuts.

Speaking about Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh and his contributions to the establishment and betterment of educational institutions in Aligarh and Mathura in Uttar Pradesh, Modi mentioned one Tayammal hailing from Tiruppur district of Tamil Nadu.

Hailing Tayammal's story as "very inspiring," the Prime Minister said she does not own land in the southern state and has been making a living by selling coconut water for years. Despite her not-so-good financial condition, Tayammal left "no stone unturned" to educate her son and daughter. Her children studied at the Chinnaveerampatti Panchayat Union Middle School, Modi said.

Narrating her journey further, Modi informed the 'Mann Ki Baat' listeners of Tayammal being present in a parents-teachers' meeting one day when the poor infrastructure of the school and dearth of adequate funds to cater to the issues were raised.

He said the woman donated ₹1 lakh to the school for improving the infrastructure, from money that she had saved by selling coconut water. "Indeed, it takes a big heart, a sense of service, to do this," Modi said.

Modi further said, at the moment, the school has classes till standard 8, but as the infrastructure of the same improves, higher secondary education will also start there. *(Hindustan Times)*

SUBSTRATE COMPANY WORKS WITH NGOS TO KICK-START BETTER LIFE FOR PHILIPPINE COCONUT GROWERS

Long before incorporating a new structure in the Philippines, substrate company Biogrow was already looking at how they could organize it as a sustainable development program, capitalizing on the experience and impact they had in Sri Lanka or India. "The production of high-quality coconut husk-based substrates is indeed really efficient at creating jobs for those who need it the most in remote, impoverished coconut farming communities", says Clément Jacquot of Biogrow Philippines. "Being labor-intensive at every step of the chain, we know that starting a new factory not only creates hundreds of direct jobs, but it also provides income for thousands of others involved in our extended network of supply. Those jobs are usually located in the countryside, and are not at risk of being relocated as they are intrinsically linked to the coconut production area."

Challenges in the Philippines

During their initial baseline study, however, they had seen that 60% of the coconut farmers in the Philippines were living way below the

poverty line (120,000PHP/year/family = 2,400USD), with income from the coconut farm often below 50,000PHP (1,000USD/year).

"Being the second biggest coconut husk producer in the world, we knew that the Philippines had huge potential for development but we also knew that many in our field had already tried without much success. Challenges are important here: the weather, the typhoons, the earthquakes, interisland logistics, or lack of infrastructure in some remote places. But those things aside, starting a new industry alone from zero in a new place can take decades. So, we were on the lookout for solutions to scale up the process faster."

Luckily several governmental agencies in the Philippines like the DTI and the PCA had already tried to promote coir in the past and many small decorticating machines had been disseminated. Many cooperatives of farmers had already been organized to produce fiber and twines. "Unfortunately, the dependence on slowing local markets had brought difficulties to these projects, and the need for accessing international markets was evident. That would require better machinery to decrease production costs, more knowledge about the quality of all the products involved, and a strong international presence to guarantee the market", says Clément . "Thus, the role of Biogrow with our 25 years of experience in Sri Lanka, India, and Brazil was deemed essential."

Collaborations and partnerships

In 2018, Biogrow decided to partner with a local NGO named IRDF (Integrated Rural Development Foundation), which was already successfully involved in several programs with coconut farmers in the south island of Mindanao and with Livelihoods Venture, a French foundation specializing in large scale projects around sustainable agriculture in emerging countries. Together, they designed and proposed a large-scale inclusive development program to DANIDA (the Danish agency of the ministry of foreign affairs, responsible for sustainable development projects in developing countries). The program was received with a lot of attention and eventually, a grant was approved to make it happen, starting in the fall of 2019. "Such a joint, market-driven project between industry, NGO and government programs requires a lot of dedication and adaptability from all the actors involved in order to align each other's goals and practices. But it also gives a proven working framework for sustainable projects that would survive long after the end of the development budget", Clément explains.

3000 small coconut farmers

The project's ambitious targets were to reach more than 3000 small coconut farmers within 4 years, organize them into 10 cooperatives, train them and help them get the machines to start their own coconut husk transformation business, producing cocopeat, chips, and crush. All of this while promoting gender equality, decent work, good business practice, and getting the new generation into coconut farming and processing to reverse the aging trend of the farming population. Eventually, this would serve to tackle SDG8, SDG1, SDG5, and SDG17 of the UN Sustainable development goals.

To achieve many of those goals Biogrow and the project also invested in a dedicated training center that is acting as the central demonstration hub for getting people familiar with the machines so they can operate, maintain and draw a business plan for their future project. Batches of students from cooperatives and private ventures will join for several weeks of training both for hands-on experience using the machines and, in the process, learn about quality control, the way to establish proper supply as well as computing costs, and learning how to make the business profitable. Clément says it is a unique opportunity to proceed to a large-scale technology and knowledge transfer from Biogrow to the participants of the program.

COVID-19

"Now 2021 is behind us we can already begin to see the fruits of this ambitious project. Of course, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the progress, as well as created hundreds of other challenges, but at least 5 cooperatives have been able to acquire a machine already and start production to transform the husks delivered by the hundreds of members they are representing!" he shares the results. "We have been able to confirm with them that the business plans we prepared together were successful and will allow not only for the creation of stable jobs and new incomes for farmers but also to generate profit that can be reinvested for expanding their operation in coming years." Biogrow has also been able to establish direct links with hundreds of farmers to supply husks and is actively working at getting them involved in other activities like the drying of raw material.

"Today, the proof of concept and profitability has been achieved, so it's only a matter of time until it will spread to more cooperatives and private businesses alike. We have also been working with the DTI RAPID program and PRDP program to help cooperatives invest in more machines and facilities for scaling up their operations."

International funds and grants

The Philippines has been the recipient of several international funds and grants from IFAD and the World Bank to help develop sustainable farming and improve the livelihoods of millions of farmers. Again, the project fits perfectly with these targets. "This has been an ongoing discussion for the past 3 years, as we really believe that government can play a crucial role in boosting the industry, going from solving very basic structural issues like roads and electrification to crafting more tailor-made programs that will directly support new businesses and investment. If we can get all actors pushing in the same direction, we have a chance to compete with established production countries like Sri Lanka and India who benefited not only from a long history in Coir production but also from strong support and intervention from government programs."

Thanks to their early successes, Biogrow has been recognized as an anchor firm for those government programs and Commercial Partnership Agreements have already been signed with their pilot cooperatives. This is a big step for them, with the ambition to grow from one single Chips Mill to a complete multi-product transformation hub. "What a pleasure it's been to see those businesses starting up and flourishing under our guidance!"

Export started

According to Clément, the fact that the company has already succeeded in exporting containers within just a few months from the start of operations is very encouraging. "Even if the road is still long until we can reach a significant capacity, we are certain our efforts will eventually pay off. We also appreciate the chance that we have to positively change people's lives by implementing such impactful developmental programs."

The end of 2021 has also brought good news for future developments as the program has been approved for an extension from DANIDA, which will both help consolidate the efforts done so far as well as introduce farmers with additional environmental protection practices and improve their resiliency towards climate change by helping them to develop intercropping and renewable biomass fuels. "The idea is to maximize land use but also to protect them from land erosion, especially in the mountainous area where we are working. Flash floods have been prone to cause landslides on lands that have been degraded by logging, mining, or poor management. We also want to help farmers to produce their own organic fertilizer on-site, so we have selected an array of trees with various agricultural values like Madre de Cacao which are nitrogen fixating, fast-growing, and from which leaves can be turned into a pest repellent and compost."

On top of that, the pruning of those trees every year for transformation into wood chips will help limit the wild logging of forests while providing sustainable and net zero-emission fuel to catch up with the energy needs due to industrial development. "We hope to really help these poor communities transition into being models and leaders of sustainable farming."

There's one thing the team is assured of: it is just the beginning! "We can't wait to see how the local economy will have changed 5 years from now! So not only will our customers have the satisfaction of using environmental-friendly substrates, but now they will also know that by choosing Biogrow, they are also helping make progress on the protection of the environment, reduction of greenhouse emissions, and contributing to social progress in our countries of production." *(Hortidaily)*

TRADE NEWS

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

Prices of vegetable oils rallied, rebounding from easier levels a week ago.

Coconut oil in Rotterdam market continued to see action but at slower pace compared to week-ago. Trades reported consisted of nine parcels all of which were concluded in Thursday session for various positions with paying level at $1,840-1,950/MT CIF, higher than $1,740-1,865 for the 16 turnovers reported last week. Market started off with firm offers at $1,850-1,975/MT CIF for positions from February/March through to August/September and maintained firmness throughout the week on spillover gain from the rally in palm oil market and on the effects of typhoon Rai last December. Closing values stood at $1,955-2,080/MT CIF.

The palm kernel oil market continued lackluster with only two trades reported this week amid widened price premium against rival coconut oil. Business reported was done at $1,790-2,200/MT CIF, higher than week-ago at $1,935.00-1,942.50. Market similarly was firm largely influenced by the rally in palm oil. High demand and low production added support as did reports Indonesia was considering export controls that saw price rocket by $348/MT from previous day. A statement from the Indonesian government, however, helped calm down the market and kept prices back to normal range. Opening level stood at $1,810-2,000/MT CIF for positions from February/March through September/October and settled at close at $1,930-2,437.50/MT CIF.

Coconut oil continued discounted against palm kernel oil at widened price differentials than they were last week. A narrowing spread, however, was observed moving forward per position and eventually flipped to premium from July/August forward. Average spread for the week showed a substantially bigger discount at $87.16/MT from week ago at $22.03. Price premium/discount per position are shown following: January/February -$362.50 (-$158.13 last week); February/March -$278.50 (-$109.80); March/April -$231.35 (-$78.00); April/May -$146.30 (-$54.40); May/June -$75.80 (-$36.00); June/July -$54.80 (-$23.00); July/August $35.50 (-$29.25); August/September $48.33 ($51.25), September/October $13.33 ($80.00); October/November $53.33 ($90.00); November/December $40.00 ($25.00).

At the CBOT soya complex, soybean futures began and ended the week in the downside weighed down by beneficial weather in South American crop belts. On the other hand, the upside received support from weaker US dollar and higher crude mineral oil prices. Brazilian farmers' reluctance to sell their stocks also added support as this could motivate buyers to turn to the US for supply.

At the palm oil section, market bounced back from last week easier close and sustained firmness for the rest of the week. Top palm oil

producer Indonesia featured in this week market eliciting bullish supply fundamentals. First, was the news that the Indonesian government will pursue vehicle tests for B40 biodiesel blends, and second, were reports of government plans to restrict exports to serve primarily the domestic market in the wake of high cooking oil prices in the country. This comes at a time that the second top producer had production issues affected by the long-running Covid-19 pandemic that, among others, reduced labor force.

Prices of tropical oils for nearest forward shipment rebounded from losses in the last two weeks with lauric oils showing rapid gains. Coconut oil leaped $134.62/MT from last week at $1,881.88 to $2,016.50/MT CIF this week; palm kernel oil shot up $376.25/MT from $1,918.75 to $2,295.00/MT CIF. Palm oil advanced by a slower $36.50/MT from $1,333.50 to $1,370.00/MT CIF. As a result, the price discount of coconut oil under palm kernel oil radically expanded to $278.50/MT after contracting to $36.87 last week. Price premium over palm oil, however, increased to $646.50/MT from $548.38 a week ago. *(UCAP Bullletin)*

MARKET ROUND-UP OF COCONUT OIL

In Rotterdam, the coconut oil market was active during Thursday session but quiet on other days. Market though was firm with trades reported consisting of $1,870, $1,950 (twice) for February/March; $1,950 for March/April; $1,850, $1,860, $1,870 for April/May; and $1,840, $1,875/MT CIF for May/June. Market closed higher with offers at $2,200 for January/February; $2,080 for February/March; $2,000 for March/April; $1,980 for April/May; $1,967.50 for May/June; $1,957.50 for June/July and July/August; and $1,955/MT CIF for August/September. Buyers showed interest only for February/March at $1,950; March/April at $1,920; and April/May at $1,902.50/MT CIF.

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

INDONESIA TO EXPORT 10,000 TONNES OF CRUDE COCONUT OIL TO MALAYSIA

Indonesia's North Sulawesi province will export 10,000 tonnes of crude coconut oil worth US$17.27 million (RM72.17 million) to Malaysia early this year, a trade official said.

Farmers and traders could take advantage of the country's demand to boost export, Antara news agency quoted head of provincial office of industry and trade, Darwin Muksin, as saying.

Farmers are urged to maintain product quality to meet market needs, he said, adding that strong demand should be good news for them as it makes coconuts more profitable to grow.

According to him, the government will continue to support the industry with export strategy and encourage industry players to grow. *(The Edge Markets)*

SOUTH AFRICA: INTEREST IN PURCHASING INDONESIAN COCONUT PRODUCTS

On January 19, 2022, the Consul for Economics together with the Economics Staff met with the Managing Director of a local biscuit producer, in the office and factory of the producer in order to follow up on the interest in purchasing desiccated coconut products from Indonesia.

The related manufacturer is a family business that produces various types of biscuits and cakes, has been operating since 2019 and currently has 2 (two) factory locations in Cape Town (Wynberg and Athlone).

With sales figures that continue to increase, manufacturers are in the process of expanding by expanding their factory location in Athlone and bringing in three machines from China to increase the process of automated production, which is planned to produce healthy biscuits.

In the production of coconut biscuits, producers have used desiccated coconut from Indonesia obtained from local distributors. Seeing the quality they have, they want to make purchases directly with Indonesian producers.

As a follow-up, the Indonesian Consulate General in Cape Town asked manufacturers to send details of the price and specifications of the desired product, so that business matching can be done business matching with producers in Indonesia. It is hoped that in the future this cooperation can be achieved and can increase the number of Indonesian products in the South African market. *(African Business)*

PH EXPORTS CONTINUE TO RECOVER BOOSTED BY SURGE IN COCONUT OIL SALES

Despite continued disruptions in the global economy due to Covid-related restrictions, the Philippine exports grew by 15.2 percent from January to November 2021 to USD 68.4 billion compared to the same period in 2020, based on Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) preliminary data.

Philippine merchandise exports increased by 6.6 percent year-on-year (YOY) amounting to USD 6.3 billion in November 2021 from USD 5.9 billion in November 2020.

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Ramon Lopez pointed out that "the 2021 figure also grew by 4.91 percent compared to the same period in 2019, which amounted to USD 65.17 billion. This reflected a better export performance compared to the prep-pandemic level."

November PSA data also showed that coconut oil recorded the highest annual increase of 95 percent out of the 10 major commodity groups in terms of export value.

The country accounts for 60 percent of United States of America (USA) coconut oil imports and 73 percent of USA crude coconut oil imports. The rise in demand were due to changes in US trade policy, market trends, and dietary guidelines.

In 2019, the coconut sector contributed more than USD1 billion in export revenues.

Coconut, particularly coconut oil, is one of the top agricultural export commodities in 2019, placing the Philippines as the number one exporter of coconut oil in the world.

The Philippines maintained its global leader position in the coconut product exports in 2020.

Philippine exports of coconut oil and desiccated coconut accounted for 52.48 percent and 35.91 percent of the global market, respectively.

Lopez said, "Over the years, coconut food exports landscape has transformed from traditional coconut oil into a higher value product such as virgin coconut oil, coconut water, coconut milk, coconut chips, coconut cream, among others. Reportlinker expects the revenue for packaged coconut water to grow at a CAGR of over 26 percent for 2019-2025. This is driven by the growing preference for coconut water as healthy, natural, and convenient beverage. *(SunStar)*

GUYANA EXPORTED $2.5B WORTH OF COCONUT PRODUCTS LAST YEAR – MINISTRY

Guyana exported over $2.5 billion worth of coconut and coconut byproducts last year which represents a $600 million increase compared to the $1.9 billion that was exported in 2020.

The Ministry of Agriculture yesterday said in a release that of that amount, virgin coconut oil exports stood at some $685 million while export earnings for dried coconuts totalled some $1.8 billion.

Meanwhile, the release said that the government through the ministry is continuing

its efforts to make quality planting materials available to farmers in the coconut industry.

The release stated that Hope Coconut Industries Limited (HCIL), formerly known as Hope Estate, established in 2021, four additional coconut seedling nurseries in Wakenaam, Leguan, Canal Number Two, and Benab (Corentyne). *(Stabroek News)*

OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

INDONESIA SET TO TEMPORARILY RESTRICT CRUDE PALM OIL EXPORT

Indonesia, the world's largest exporter of palm oil, is set to temporarily restrict crude palm oil (CPO) exports starting later this month as the country seeks to combat rising cooking oil prices by forcing producers to prioritize domestic markets.

The Trade Ministry said that CPO exporters needed to show proof of selling CPO domestically each time they applied for export permits with the ministry over the next six months, starting January 24. The ministry will withhold export approval documents until receiving such proof. All exporters are subject to this policy, including those that have never supplied domestic markets before and are not affiliated with cooking oil producers. "This is not an export ban. We want to ensure CPO availability domestically," Trade Minister M. Lutfi told reporters during a virtual press conference.

The Indonesian Palm Oil Association (GAPKI) and the Indonesian Vegetable Oil Refiners Association (GIMNI) told House of Representative lawmakers that they supported the government policy to stabilize cooking oil prices. GAPKI deputy chairman Togar Sitanggang said the government was rumored to be considering a minimum 20% domestic market allocation for CPO, which would be like the coal DMO. However, he did not specify how the policy would impact CPO producers. The government has also decided to expand a subsidized cooking oil program that provides the commodity at no more than IDR14,000 per liter for households and small businesses. The one-price policy is effective for six months, with a possible extension. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

GRAZA LAUNCHES OLIVE OIL IN SQUEEZABLE BOTTLES

Single-origin olive oil brand Graza is carving out a niche spot in a crowded category with premium extra-virgin olive oil products available at an affordable price point and in easy-to-use squeeze bottles, a packaging first for the category, said co-founder Andrew Benin.

Using only Picual olives, a variety not widely used in the US olive oil market, from a supplier in the Andalusia region of Spain, Benin and COO and co-founder Allen Dushi set out to create an affordable, high quality extra-virgin olive oil. Its first two products are Sizzle and Drizzle which are priced at $15 for a 16.9-fluid-ounce bottle and $20 for a 25.3-fluid-ounce bottle, respectively. The company plans to launch a third product, 'Frizzle', which will be the company's most affordable cooking oil option designed to compete directly with canola and vegetable oil.

Determined not to be yet another olive oil brand on the shelf, Benin and Dushi knew their packaging had to not only stand out but be completely unprecedented for the category. So, the two settled on an opaque (to protect the oil from light) squeeze bottle which is meant to make cooking a breeze for any level chef. The brand is currently on the shelves at Yowie, a hip Philadelphia-based design store and at James Beard-nominated restaurant Suerte in Austin, Texas. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL TO BE SENT INTO SPACE THIS YEAR

A selection of Italian extra virgin olive oils is due to be sent to the International Space Station (ISS) next spring. The oils will be brought to the ISS, located about 400 kilometers above the Earth's surface, by commander of the mission, Italian astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti, the report said. Supporters of the initiative hoped to study how the product holds up in space and promote olive oil culture.

The Italian Space Agency confirmed that the astronauts would consume the extra virgin olive oils with meals. One of the oils will be used to study the impact of being in space on olive oil quality. "I would not forget to bring olive oil with me, which also gives flavor to anything, even to the rehydrated salads that we eat up here," Cristoforetti said. High doses of radiation (both cosmic and solar) in space could modify some elements of the oil, according to the report, while the lack of gravity, also called a micro-gravity environment, might also cause the oils to coalesce and aggregate. Cristoforetti's selection includes three monovarietal extra virgin olive oils, made from the traditional Italian cultivars: Frantoio, Bosana and Biancolilla.

Unaprol, the Italian olive producers' consortium and one of the project partners, said four separate mono-varietal extra virgin olive oils would be offered to other astronauts with specific meals. "The seven extra virgin olive oils, three destined to the bonus food and four to astronaut's meals, have been chosen among tens of tested samples because of their chemical-physical and organoleptic characteristics," said Unaprol general director Nicola di Noia.

The experiment will allow researchers to study the chemical profile of each oil to understand any changes that occur in space, according to the report, with samples brought back to Earth after six months, 12 months and 18 months on the ISS. *(UCAP Bulletin)*

HEALTH NEWS

DOST STUDIES CONFIRM VIRGIN COCO OIL CAN HELP EASE COVID SYMPTOMS

Virgin coconut oil (VCO), whether mixed with meals or directly consumed, can help hasten recovery from symptoms and infection among Covid-19 patients, according to two clinical trials conducted by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

The DOST, however, cautioned the public not to consider VCO as a cure for Covid-19 but only as an "adjunct treatment," or supplement to other drugs, such as antivirals and antibiotics.

Both studies involved cases with mild to moderate COVID-19 symptoms, such as fever, cough, colds, body ache and headache, as well as loss of taste and smell.

These maladies were gone by their 14th day of taking VCO doses, De la Peña said, or 12 days faster than the patients in the control group who were not given coconut oil and recovered from their symptoms only on the 26th day from the start of the study.

The second study involved 77 Covid-19 patients of Valenzuela City Emergency Hospital—39 of whom received VCO, while 38 did not—who underwent a 28-day intervention last year.

Immediate relief

Led by the DOST's Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI), the two trials used the randomized single-blind, open-label method, wherein the participants and the hospital staff knew they were taking the VCO, but the research team didn't know the grouping or who were part of the experimental and control groups.

The Valenzuela study served as a follow-up to a similar VCO trial conducted among suspect and probable Covid-19 patients in Santa Rosa in 2020.

Patients in the Valenzuela experimental group were each given 0.6 milliliters per kilogram of body weight of VCO in medicine cups for the first three days to let their gut adjust. The amount was later increased to 1.2 mL/kg BW from Day 4 to 28. The same dosage was given to their Santa Rosa counterparts.

In a presentation, De la Peña said immediate relief of symptoms were shown by seven, or 18 percent, of the 39 patients who received VCO doses by Day 2. Meanwhile, only four, or 10.5 percent, of the 38 patients in the control group experienced relief from symptoms by the second day.

The diminishing signs and symptoms of COVID-19 among patients in the VCO group was supported by the decreasing levels of C-reactive protein (CRP) among the patients. CRP is a quantitative marker used in monitoring inflammation or infections. CRP levels of less than 5 milligrams per liter of blood indicate no infection or inflammation.

Average CRP levels of the VCO group normalized to 5 mg/L or less as early as Day 14, and continuously decreased until Day 28. On the other hand, normalization of CRP levels in the control group only reached normal levels on Day 28.

"In conclusion, VCO can be an effective adjunct therapy in managing COVID-19 signs and symptoms, whether mixed in nutritious meals or taken separately," the DOST chief said. Both trials "confirmed that VCO hastens the resolution" of COVID-19 symptoms, he said."

Boon to coco industry

According to De la Peña, the results of these studies could prove to be a boon to the country's coconut industry and related enterprises.

Based on studies by the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), there are five hybrids (PCA 15-8, SYN VAR, PCA 15-9, PCA 15-3, PCA 15-2), five tall varieties (BAYT, SNRT, TAGT, BAOT, LAGT) and one dwarf variety of coconut suitable for VCO production.

The DOST trials were headed by FNRI Director Imelda Angeles-Agdeppa, with Jacus Nacis, Fabian Dayrit and Mario Capanzana as coinvestigators. Another research team was composed of FNRI scientists Carmina Alicia Lainez, Johnalen Aira Soberano and Janine Marie Dariagan, and statistician Keith Tanda.

The Valenzuela study also involved the DOST's National Capital Region office and another attached body, the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD); Ateneo de Manila University (Admu), the PCA and the Valenzuela City government.

The two studies were based on earlier research by Dayrit, a coconut expert and Admu professor emeritus, on the potential use of VCO as an antiviral agent. It was coauthored by Dr. Mary Newport of Spring Hill Neonatology in Florida.

The DOST-PCHRD is currently studying the use of VCO as a nasal spray or gargle for Covid-19 patients. *(Inquirer)*

IS COCONUT SUGAR REALLY A HEALTHY SWEETENER? NUTRITIONISTS BREAK IT DOWN

Despite its name, coconut sugar won't quite make any of baked goods taste like a piña colada—it comes from coconut tree flower buds rather than the meat itself. "Coconut sugar is a natural sugar made from coconut palm sap," dietitian-nutritionist Dana K. Monsees, M.S., CNS, LDN, previously told. "It's also referred to as coconut palm sugar or coconut palm sap in liquid form." The taste is more similar to brown sugar and resembles raw sugar, with a brown tint and smaller granules.

Coconut sugar is less processed than table sugar: The sap is dried and packaged without any additional processing and thus retains more nutrients like iron, zinc, and magnesium along with other polyphenols, explains Catherine Perez, R.D., founder of Plant Based R.D.

Beyond its minimal processing and sourcing from plants, coconut sugar has a few other benefits going for it, too:

It may be better for blood sugar balance

Perez says coconut contains small amounts of inulin, a prebiotic, soluble fiber, which digests slowly and is beneficial for gut health. Since it slows digestion, this fiber can also help maintain blood sugar balance.

As such, "Coconut sugar is lower on the glycemic index (GI) than cane sugar or even maple sugar," New York City–based holistic nurse practitioner Victoria Albina, N.P., MPH previously shared.

Research published in Food Science & Nutrition suggests that the GI value of coconut sugar is 35, while sugar cane can vary from 58 to 82, on a scale of 100. But it's important to note that the GI will vary based on food pairings or combos.

It may support bone health

A 100-gram serving of coconut sugar provides 875 milligrams of the heart-healthy mineral potassium and 375 milligrams of calcium, which is essential for bone health.

Perez says that while many of these nutrients sound like a major positive, it's important to note that need to consume a large quantity of coconut sugar to see any impact. "You're better off nourishing yourself using whole-food options like whole grains, fruits, vegetables and plant proteins," she says.

It could promote sustainability

Our personal health is tied to planetary health, so that's something to consider when it comes to making nutrition decisions. "Another benefit to coconut sugar is that it is a more environmentally sustainable choice than palm sugar or cane sugar," says Albina.

"Just make sure to pick a fair-trade-certified and organic brand to reap that benefit," says Appelö.

How to substitute coconut sugar in recipes

Coconut sugar may be used as a one-to-one sugar substitute in recipes from baked goods to sauces and syrups to coffee. From a taste perspective, Perez says coconut sugar has a mellow caramel-like flavor to it, which may cause desserts to taste different compared to using other sugars.

Cooking with coconut sugar tends to get a little more complicated from a texture standpoint: "The science of baking can be tricky, so it's important to keep in mind that coconut sugar doesn't have the same chemical makeup as table sugar and may not form the same type of structure," says Appelö, adding that coconut sugar tends to do well in recipes that have a considerable amount of liquids and fat.

To overcome an "overly porous aftermath when baking," Appelö recommends taking your coconut sugar for a ride in the blender or food processor to achieve a more similar texture to cane sugar.

It's worth noting that coconut sugar can't handle temperatures as high as cane or brown sugar. Appelö recommends avoiding temperatures over 280 degrees Fahrenheit to avoid burning.

When using coconut sugar in place of liquid sweeteners or brown sugar, Appelö notes that it tends to be drier than other sweeteners, so best off adding some extra liquid or moisture to the mix like yogurt or a mashed banana. *(mbg Food)*

COCONUT WATER: DRINKING IT MIGHT AID WEIGHT LOSS

What is coconut water?

Coconuts are a fruit that grows in tropical climates. It's found in the center of young coconuts which are still green. It's there to nourish the fruit in the long term and help it ripen.

It takes a surprisingly long time (10 to 12 months) for a coconut to ripen into the recognizable brown, hairy shell that contains the solid white flesh known as coconut meat. Once the coconut has matured, less water remains.

This is why the water comes from coconuts that are about 6–7 months of age and have yet to mature. On average, one green fruit provides between half a cup and a cup of coconut water.

It might help shed those festive pounds

It is known to boost metabolic rate, which will help body to burn more calories more efficiently. Better metabolism is often linked with weight loss, as it means that the body is able to use all the calories.

Coconut water is also brilliant for hydration and of course, good hydration leads to the body storing less fat. When become dehydrated, tend to feel tired, and this typically leads to the brain signaling hunger rather than thirst as it attempts to boost energy levels.

Of course, another major reason that it is good for weight loss is that it simply contains fewer calories. The calories it does contain are not simply empty calories like you might find in sugary, soft drinks.

It makes sense that replacing high-calorie, unhealthy drinks with a healthier, more natural option will help you shed those pounds. Opting for a glass of coconut water will boost bodily function, and it's nutritious and good for you.

Drinking coconut water will help recover after exercise

It's naturally full of electrolytes. Electrolytes are, according to Healthline, minerals that play a vital role in maintaining fluid balance in the body. Vital electrolytes include potassium, magnesium, sodium, and calcium.

We tend to lose electrolytes during exercise and, it's the depletion of those electrolytes that makes us feel dehydrated after an intense workout. Not only is it good, but it also tastes good too. It's got a subtly sweet and nutty flavor.

Due to the fact that it contains electrolytes like potassium and magnesium, studies have found that it's likely better to drink coconut water after exercise than sticking to plain water. Professional tennis player John Isner for instance, swears by it and credits it with "keeping him on his feet for his epic 11-hour marathon Wimbledon tennis win".

Isner says "It is super hydrating and has kept me going in long matches and prevented me from cramping even in the hottest and most humid conditions". A small Brazilian study found that it "improved exercise capacity better than water or a sports drink during a very hot day".

It's good for your heart too

It seems that drinking coconut water is even linked with reducing your risk for heart disease. A 2008 study conducted on rats found that the group that was fed coconut water in high doses alongside a diet rich in fat and cholesterol, saw a reduction in cholesterol and triglyceride levels. The results showed effectiveness that matched the effects of a statin drug, which is most commonly used to lower cholesterol.

However, it must be noted that the dosage given to the rats was incredibly high, and, according to Healthline, in human terms "it would be equivalent to a 150-pound (68-kg)

person consuming 91 ounces (2.7 liters) of coconut water per day".

A 2005 study also found that coconut water was beneficial in reducing blood pressure, however, the study was limited, and more research needs to be conducted in order to prove whether it's effective. *(Longevity)*

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. Indonesia's Monthly Exports of Desiccated Coconut, 2019 – 2021

Month	2019		2020		2021	
	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000
January	8,126	8,922	6,702	7,794	9,526	15,798
February	7,911	8,707	10,113	12,679	11,432	19,023
March	9,585	10,110	11,391	14,719	12,452	20,138
April	8,012	8,517	10,650	14,733	13,159	21,684
May	8,101	8,743	9,450	12,970	8,609	14,952
June	4,429	4,957	9,164	12,598	11,249	18,783
July	7,836	8,823	11,848	17,658	10,838	19,337
August	8,526	9,542	11,682	17,321	13,538	22,432
September	10,150	10,866	12,292	17,289	12,388	21,517
October	9,609	10,458	12,816	18,649	12,348	20,096
November	8,155	8,447	9,735	14,421	13,271	22,897
December	8,303	9,159	12,242	17,965	11,123	18,016
Total	**98,742**	**107,252**	**128,086**	**178,798**	**139,934**	**234,673**

Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia

Table 2. Philippines' Monthly Exports of Desiccated Coconut (in MT), 2018 – 2021

Month	2018	2019	2020	2021
January	8,307	7,320	11,816	10,523
February	6,251	10,688	14,202	11,976
March	5,249	12,473	13,296	13,266
April	7,671	9,768	8,336	10,995
May	8,285	8,317	10,723	11,933
June	11,077	13,165	12,347	13,990
July	13,871	13,427	14,982	13,669
August	16,314	14,794	13,103	15,302
September	14,359	13,830	13,678	14,920
October	14,057	16,793	13,170	16,118
November	11,242	13,135	9,874	16,415
December	11,209	13,884	9,673	
Total	**127,892**	**162,388**	**145,200**	**149,107**

Source: UCAP

Table 3. Sri Lanka's Monthly Exports of Desiccated Coconut (MT), 2019 – 2021

Month	2019		2020		2021	
	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000	Volume (MT)	Value (FOB) US$'000
January	3,562	6,529	2,509	5,356	1,515	4,827
February	3,590	6,447	2,814	6,806	2,297	6,708
March	4,957	9,455	1,981	4,912	3,125	9,442
April	3,592	6,809	1,332	3,315	2,234	7,150
May	4,656	8,639	1,909	5,023	2,701	8,789
June	3,947	7,069	2,758	7,107	2,785	8,593
July	4,458	7,573	3,527	9,100	3,476	10,374
August	5,395	8,247	2,833	7,352	3,679	10,861
September	4,550	7,234	3,163	8,494	3,206	9,151
October	4,241	7,177	2,478	6,613	4,141	11,981
November	3,659	6,061	2,173	6,032	3,779	10,783
December	3,060	5,552	2,114	6,097	3,178	9,188
Total	**49,667**	**86,795**	**29,591**	**76,207**	**36,116**	**107,848**

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

Table 4. Export Volume of Desiccated Coconut by Country of Origin, 2021 (MT)

Month	Malaysia	Thailand	India	Brazil
January	818	74	230	2
February	1,553	55	125	13
March	1,381	34	250	3
April	1,186	32	77	52
May	862	28	181	11
June	1,014	68	251	6
July	1,060	5	809	27
August	1,367	31	485	2
September	1,133	56	561	5
October	1,168	80	726	5
November	1,003	99	290	5
December		38	844	3
Total	**12,545**	**600**	**4,829**	**134**

Source: ITC, Thai Customs and Department of Commerce of India

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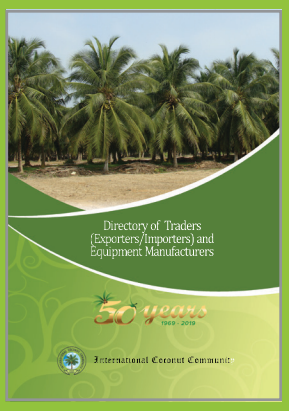

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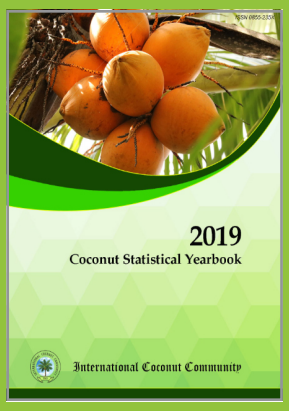

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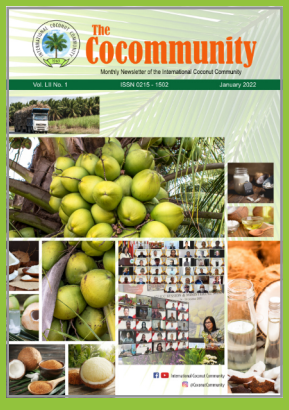

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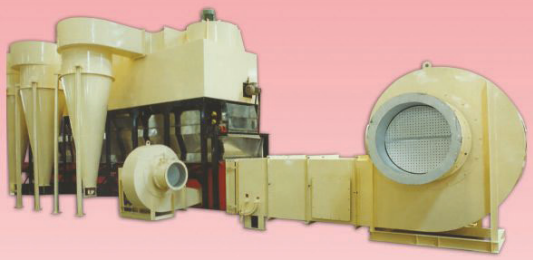

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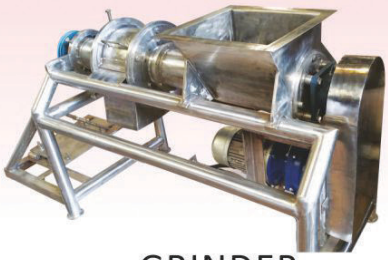
for Desiccated Coconut Granules & Parings.
Output Capacity : 300 to 1000 Kgs/hr.

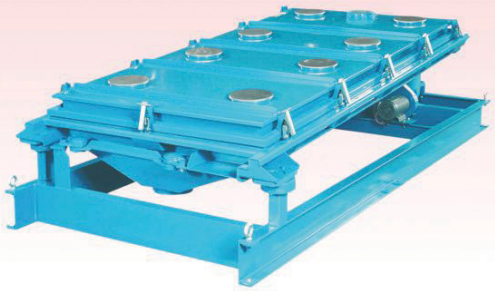


GRINDER

Output Capacity:
1000Kgs/hr.

BLANCHER

Output Capacity :
1000 to 4000 Kgs/hr.



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