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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPEAKS .....

### ***“Farmers Continue Efforts in Diversification to Remain Viable Despite Low Market Prices”***



An organized group approach in the coconut industry is often more beneficial to its members individual as well corporately if some activities are undertaken together. This approach comes highly recommended after some successful models seen in a few countries. Normally such grouping emerges to create synergy that would fully utilize economies of scale principle toward cost reduction, improving productivity, mitigate challenges and in accessing viable markets. A first-time grouping at Government level is seen Indonesia where 16 Regencies, the level after provinces, signed an accord to establish a Coconut Coalition, *Kopek Kelapa*, as a partnership between them to raise and address issues of commonality amongst them to benefit their coconut farmers. The Karangasem Regency in the Province of Bali will be the host for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Indonesian Coconut Festival to be held in September 2019.

The groupings are needed at this time when copra prices have been at the lowest as CIF Rotterdam price for Coconut Oil (CNO) continues to remain low at USD660-770 per MT. Intake of Lauric oil is also reducing over last few months in most importing countries, affecting demand for CNO thus lowering price of Copra.

Production performance for higher value products of coconut are steady and some show growth in both the edible and non-edible category of products, except for Virgin Coconut Oil seeing a slight drop. Much of the hardship is faced due to continuing negative publicity, mostly sponsored by competing vegetable oils, against coconut oil. USA Coconut Coalition informed of nearly 20% reduction in distribution this year in the continent.

The switch towards and related growth in high value products is largely dependent on availability of viable markets, in terms of volumes and good prices.

In this month's issue you can also read about new-found health benefits of coconut oil and coconut products. You will also discover cooking recipes and ingredient for coconut-based dishes which are not only delicious but very good for your health.

The Community and its Secretariat have commenced compiling case studies from different countries showing how farms and farmers remain viable or achieve breakeven stage in terms of costs versus income. The publication prepared is very suitably titled '*Coconut Farmers Need Not Be Poor*'. The Secretariat wishes to call for articles or stories of such successful cases from coconut stakeholders around the world who may wish to share their experience that would assist others in the industry.

A number of reasons or rather strategic moves to seek a viably position is to continually add value and, if possible, address issues of cost-effectiveness. To start off with is, for example, the value adding in copra is the improvements production of White Copra that earns at least 40% more in price than not-so-good quality copra now referred to as 'Black Copra'. Introduction of alternate activities proven to be viable such intercropping and integration of small livestock as well as inland fisheries activities that could supply a viable market.

Coconut farmers are encouraged to continue the effort of diversification with appropriate and competent advice to ensure they achieve a viable status as a farm and as a person.



URON N. SALUM  
Executive Director, ICC

## PREVAILING MARKET PRICES OF SELECTED COCONUT PRODUCTS AND OILS

*Price of CNO decreased in Indonesia, and Philippines but increased in Sri Lanka. Price of DC increased in Indonesia and Sri Lanka but decreased in Philippines.*

**COPRA:** The price of copra in Indonesia was US\$422/MT in February 2019, which was lower than last month's price of US\$425/MT. When compared to last year's data for the same month the price was US\$230/MT lower.

In the domestic market of the Philippines (Manila), the price decreased by US\$54/MT compared to the price in January 2019, and about US\$317/MT lower compared to the price of US\$741/MT in February 2018.

**COCONUT OIL:** The average price of coconut oil in Europe (C.I.F. Rotterdam) for the month of February 2019 decreased by US\$63/MT to US\$710/MT from US\$773/MT in January 2019. This price was lower by 43% when compared to the price of February 2018 accounting for US\$1,252/MT.

The average local price of coconut oil in the Philippines in February 2019 was US\$713/MT. This was US\$48/MT lower than the price in January 2019, and it was US\$512/MT lower if compared to the last year price for the same month which was US\$1,225/MT.

The average domestic price of coconut oil in Indonesia in February 2019 decreased by US\$64/MT compared to the previous month from US\$761/MT to US\$697/MT. February 2019 price was US\$538/MT lower than the price of the same month of 2018 which was US\$1,235/MT.

**COPRA MEAL:** The average domestic price of the commodity in the Philippines at selling points was quoted at US\$208/MT. The price was US\$5/MT higher compared to the previous month and was US\$46/MT higher than the last year price for the same month.

The average domestic price of copra meal in Sri Lanka decreased by US\$3 compared to the last month price of US\$229/MT and was lower than last year price of US\$389/MT for the same month.

**DESICCATED COCONUT:** The average price of desiccated coconut (DC) FOB USA in February 2019 was US\$1,731/MT. This price was US\$14/MT lower than the previous month's price and US\$248/MT lower than the price of the same month last year. In Sri Lanka, the domestic price of desiccated coconut in February 2019 was US\$1,832/MT or US\$82 higher than the price in January 2019. Meanwhile, the price of DC in the domestic market in the Philippines was US\$916/MT, which was US\$104/MT lower than the previous month's price at US\$1,020/MT and US\$780 lower than the price in the same month last year. Indonesian price in February 2019 was US\$1,400/MT, increased by US\$200/MT compared to the last month's, and decreased by US\$875/MT from last year's price.

**COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL:** In Sri Lanka, the average price of the commodity in February 2019 was US\$391/MT which was US\$6/MT higher than previous month's price. The average price of charcoal in Indonesia for February 2019 was US\$461/MT, which was US\$34/MT lower than last year's price for the same month.

**COIR FIBRE:** Coir fiber traded in the domestic market in Sri Lanka was priced at US\$197/MT for mix fiber and US\$630/MT-US\$1,008/MT for bristle. The Indonesian price for mixed raw fiber was US\$313/MT in February 2019 which was higher by US\$10/MT compared to last month's price.

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

Products/Country	2019 Feb.	2019 Jan.	2018 Feb.	2019 (Annual Ave.)
<b>Dehusked Coconut</b>				
Philippines (Domestic)	120	125	187	122
Indonesia (Domestic, Industry Use)	141	141	191	141
Sri Lanka (Domestic, Industry Use)	171	164	446	167
India (Domestic Kerala)	583	605	647	594
<b>Copra</b>				
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	424	478	741	451
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	422	425	652	424
Sri Lanka (Dom. Colombo)	997	914	1,546	956
India (Dom. Kochi)	1,612	1,733	2,093	1,673
<b>Coconut Oil</b>				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	710	773	1,252	742
Philippines (Domestic)	713	761	1,225	737
Indonesia (Domestic)	697	761	1,235	729
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	1,810	1,784	2,609	1,797
India (Domestic, Kerala)	2,482	2,603	3,162	2,543
<b>Desiccated Coconut</b>				
Philippines FOB (US), Seller	1,731	1,979	2,502	1,855
Philippines (Domestic)	916	1,020	1,696	968
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	1,832	1,750	3,653	1,791
Indonesia (FOB)	1,400	1,200	2,275	1,300
India (Domestic)	2,055	2,149	2,999	2,102
<b>Copra Meal Exp. Pel.</b>				
Philippines (Domestic)	208	203	162	205
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	226	229	389	227
Indonesia (Domestic)	209	205	218	207
<b>Coconut Shell Charcoal</b>				
Philippines (Domestic), Buyer	335	337	440	214
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	391	385	506	388
Indonesia (Domestic Java), Buyer	461	552	495	506
India (Domestic)	431	442	576	436
<b>Coir Fibre</b>				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short Fibre)	197	231	198	214
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	630	659	707	645
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	1,008	989	1,126	998
Indonesia (Mixed Raw Fibre)	313	303	348	308
<b>Other Oil</b>				
Palm Kernel Oil Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	695	765	1,148	730
Palm Oil Crude, Mal/Indo (CIF Rott.)	603	585	663	594
Soybean Oil (Europe FOB Ex Mill)	773	748	842	760

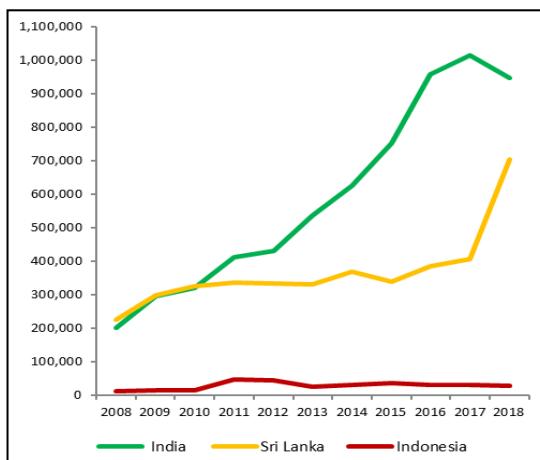
**Exchange Rate:** February 28, 2019

1US\$= -P 51.83 or Indo.=Rp14.133 or India=R70.84 or SL=Rs180.04  
Euro=US\$1.14 n.q. = no quote

## MARKET REVIEW OF COIR

India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia are still dominating global market of coir products. Approximately more than 85% of the total exports are sent from these countries. The rest are shared by Thailand, Philippines and Malaysia. The strength of India in its domestic demand was well combined with the growth of its export. Indian export of coir products was only around 200 thousand MT in 2008/09 and increased exponentially to almost 1 million MT in 2018 with growth average of more than 17.7% per annum. Meanwhile in 2018, Sri Lanka's export increased by 73% in value in the period of January to December. The export was dominated by finished products such as fibre pith, moulded coir products and coir broom and brushes which contributed more than 82% of the total export. India and Sri Lanka emphasize more on value added products. Meanwhile, Indonesia mainly sent raw fibre to global market. China is still a major importing country for coir products as its current share in the global market is more than 50% of the world import and still improving though in limited pace. Coir industry, in general, keeps showing a positive growth in global market especially for value added products. Currently global trade of coir fibre and its value added products such as yarn, matting, rugs and carpet as well as geo textile is estimated worth more than one billion US dollar.

**Export Volume (MT) of Coir Products,  
2008 - 2018**



Exports of coir products from India continue to grow as the global market for coir and coir products is improving. The latest data from Coir Board of India show that in the period of January-December 2018, a total quantity of 945,822 MT of coir and coir products were shipped from India globally. The export valued at Rs. 262,332 lakhs or equal to US\$ 379.7 million. Such export revenue increased by 5.6% from the previous year for the same period. The revenue might still be improving due to a growing demand from importing countries, such as China and USA for coir and coir products from India.

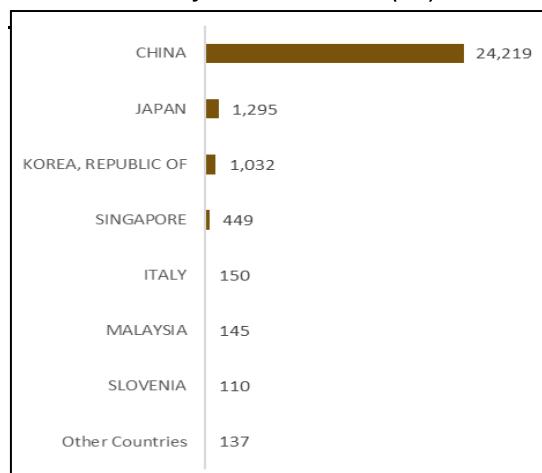
**Export Volume (MT) of Coir Products from India,  
January 2018 - December 2018**

Coir Pith	552,246
Coir fibre	295,722
Tufted Mat	54,360
Handloom Mat	18,985
Curled Coir	10,591
Coir Geotextiles	7,512
Coir Yarn	3,394
Rubberised Coir	1,003
Handloom Matting	980
Coir Rope	493
Coir Rugs & Carpets	188
Coir Other Sorts**	177
Powerloom Matting	137
Powloom Mat	34

India as a leading exporter country sends 14 coir product categories to the world market. These include semi finished products such as coir yarns, loom mats and mattings, and rubberized coir to finished products like geo-textiles, coir rugs and carpets. In the period of January-December 2018, export volume of coir products from India was recorded at 945,822 tonnes or went down by 6.9% from 1,015,480 tonnes for the same period in 2017. Exports of coir products from India were still dominated by coir pith and coir fibre. The two coir products constituted for 66% of the total export volume of coir products. Coir fibre shrunk by 30% to 295,722 tonnes from 425,827 tonnes in 2017. Meanwhile, coir pith increased by 11.8% in the same period. Coir geotextiles recorded the highest export growth accounting for 197% in volume. USA, Netherland, China, South Korea, Spain and Italy were still the main destination of coir products from India.

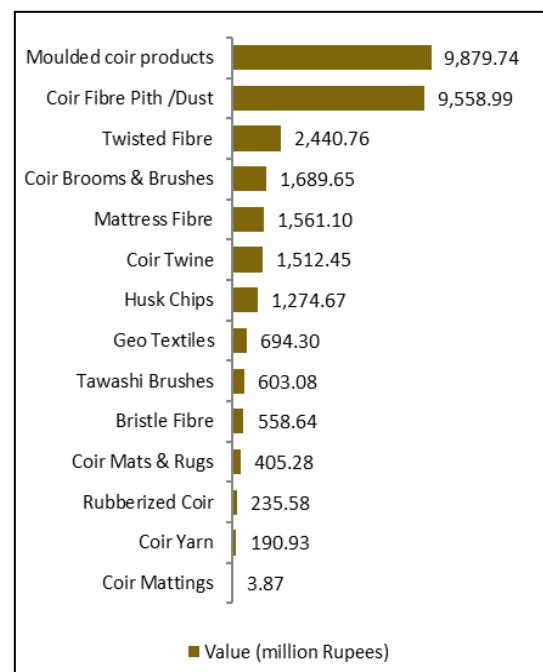
China-dependent is still perceived for market of coir product from Indonesia. During the year of 2018, China absorbed 88% of Indonesian coir products. The product was still dominated by raw coir fibre in bales. In the period, total export of coir product from Indonesia was 27,537 MT which was equivalent to US\$7.99 million. Other destinations for coir fibre from Indonesia were Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Malaysia.

#### Export destination of Coir Products from Indonesia, January - December 2018 (MT)



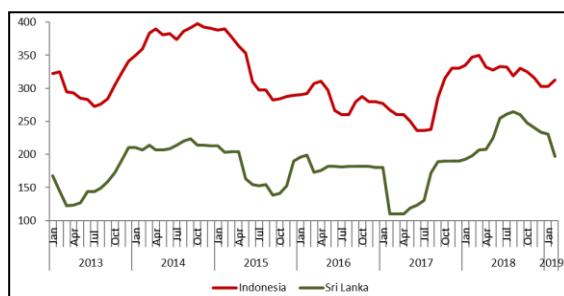
During January-December 2018, export value of coir products from Sri Lanka was US\$174.2 million which was 0.1% higher than 2017's export value for the same period. Moulded coir products and coco pith contributed the highest revenue of Sri Lanka coir products which accounted for 32% and 31% of the total export revenue. Mexico was a major importer of Sri Lanka's moulded coir products use in horticulture. In the period of January- December 2018, Mexico imported 16,127 tons or 15.1% of the Sri Lanka's total export of moulded coir products use in horticulture at 106,861 tons. Other major markets of Sri Lankan moulded coir products use in horticulture included Japan, France, South Korea, Egypt and Canada. They imported coco pith ranging from 6,113 tons to 10,223 tons during the period. Compared to the previous year, export volume of moulded coir products demonstrated a positive growth of 41%. Furthermore, in the same period, coir matting and mattress fibre were the Sri Lankan coir products that showed the highest increase in volume compared to the same period in the previous year. The products recorded 142% and 74% increase in volume respectively.

#### Export Value of Coir Products from Sri Lanka, January - December 2018



After experiencing a increasing trend from second half of 2017 to the first half of 2018, price of coir showed a reverse trend in the second half of 2018. In the second half of 2018, price of coir fibre started to decline. In Sri Lanka, after reaching highest price in July 2019 at US\$266/MT, the price started to went down reaching US\$233/MT in December 2019. In Indonesia, price of coir fibre started to decline in July 2019 and reached US\$303/MT. Although in the second half of 2018 the price decreased, generally price of coir fibre showed an increasing trend compared to the previous year. In Sri Lanka the average price in 2018 was US\$233/MT which was 54% higher than average price in 2017. Likewise, in Indonesia the average price in 2018 rose by 20% compared to 2017 annual average price.

#### Export destination of Coir Products from Indonesia, January - December 2018 (MT)



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### TRENDSPOTTING AT EXPO WEST REVEALS UPTICKS IN MANY PRODUCTS, INGREDIENTS, INCLUDING MCT OIL

Cannabidiol (CBD) was considered as the hot new ingredient at the recently concluded Natural Products Expo West in Anaheim, though it was not the only notable trend with promising market potential or significant recent development, according to Food Navigator-USA. New products launching at Expo West revealed several other emerging ingredients and trends, which maybe were not as splashy as CBD, but which have significant marketing potential and white space for product development minus the regulatory hurdles that CBD faces. Among these include MCT oil, plant-based protein, prebiotics as well as all-things keto, better for you snacks and healthier versions of classic children's foods, the report added.

MCT oil was another big hitter at Expo West making cameos in wide range of functional beverages, including a new line from Ethan's, which makes functional shots. MCT oil is one of the key ingredients in BonaFide's Keto Broth. MCT oil also plays a supporting role in Aloha's new ready-to-drink plant-based protein drinks, which debuted at Expo West.

Ethan's company founder, Ethan Hirshberg said he decided to launch a line of MCT oil shots after he was floored by the 'awesome' retail and consumer adoption of his apple cider vinegar and healthy juice shots which launched about a year and a half ago. The 2-ounce MCT shots that launched in Whole Foods six months ago come with an 'optimal dose of medium chain triglycerides and added superfoods to maximize taste and health,' and are available in four flavors: coffee,

matcha, orange cacao and turmeric ginger. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

### INDONESIA SHALL ORGANIZE THE 3<sup>RD</sup> INTERNATIONAL COCONUT DAY FESTIVAL IN KARANGASEM, BALI

Karangasem Regency, Bali has the honor of hosting International Coconut Day Festival which is scheduled to be held in September 2019.

For the preparation, a Preparatory Meeting was held with the Coalition of Coconut Producing District Government (Kopek) in the Wantilan Office of the Karangasem Regent.

Chairman of Kopek, Gorontalo Regent Prof. Dr. Nelson Pomalingo, MPd, Forkompida Karangasem Regency, Indragiri Hilir Regent, H. Muhammad Wardan, Tanjung Jabung Barat Regent, Dr. Safril, MS, Regent of Agam, Indra Karti, Regent of Sula Islands, Hendrata Thess, Buol Regent, Amirrudin Rauf, West Southeast Maluku Regent, Petrus Fatolon, North Penajam Paser Regent, H. Abdul Gafur Mas'ud, SE and other regents representatives attended the Meeting. Also present were the International Coconut Community (ICC) represented by Alit Firmansah, Director of the World Coconut Center represented by Mr. Jeremy Hick, Director of Multistrada Agro International, Dr. Kartika Diananingsih, Executive Director of Sawit Watch Inda, Chairperson of IPKI (Indonesian Coconut Processing Industry Association) Rudy Handiwijaya, and Director of Politani Samarinda, Dr. Hamka Nukaya, STP, M.Sc.

The Regent of Karangasem, I Gusti Ayu Mas Sumatri, said that the number of coconut trees until 2017 in Karangasem Regency cover 18,290 hectares. This area will continue to be developed for exotic coconuts, types of early-bearing coconuts and ceremonial coconuts.

He said, coconut replanting was conducted in 2017 covering 150 hectares, in 2018 at the amount of 250 hectares and 2019 will cover 200 hectares. He expressed that coconut has become an important part

of the life of Balinese people in their daily lives and for religious and customary ritual needs. "To meet the demand, since 2017 the Karangasem regency has launched a million coconut replanting program using some early-bearing coconut varieties such as Orange Bali Coconut, Yellow coconut, Salak Coconut, Kopyor Coconut, Entog Coconut and others. In the future we will continue to strive to improve coconut agribusiness, especially in the coconut downstream sector with the concept of a zero waste coconut processing system in the sense that all coconut components can be processed and can produce added value," said Mas Sumatri.

Chairman of Kopek, Prof. Dr. Nelson Pomalingo welcomed the joining of Karangasem Regency in Kopek. Obviously Karangasem Regency will be an example of the mutual synergy of coconut agriculture and tourism.

Besides that Karangasem will become a museum of living coconut in Indonesia. "The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Coconut Festival in Karangasem will be held during 4-7 September 2019" he said. (<http://www.balipost.com>)

#### **COCONUT SHELLS 'TRANSFORMED' INTO RINGS AND HIGH-VALUE NECKLACES**

Utilizing waste to become a commodity is no longer an impossible thing. Waste that is worthless to some people can even be transformed into a selling product on the market.

Like Fadli Lidra (28), who uses coconut shell waste to create various accessories ranging from rings to necklaces. Coconut shell waste, usually just thrown away in his area, was taken and made use for making valuable accessories.

From the raw material, he chose the name *Sayak* which means coconut shell. There is no financial capital needed by Fadli to start this business in 2015.

"In the beginning, it was just for fun, as I really like to make accessory handicrafts. Initially I made it from stone or wood, then I got an idea to make them from coconut shells, so I learn how to do it myself, finally I can sell it," said Fadli.

Coconut shells are so easy to find around his homes in Payakumbuh, West Sumatra. After coconut meat is processed into coconut milk for a mixture of dishes, coconut shell is removed and then used for making accessories. "The shell is easy to find, it's free as it is the waste thrown away when people make coconut milk, so just take it," said Fadli.

Fadli recounts the process of making rings and necklaces from coconut shells. The thrown away waste of coconut shells are collected, cleaned and sanded until smooth. He meets orders according to the buyer's request or custom. The duration of the production depends on the difficulty of the design. The making process begins with cutting the coconut shell, followed by smoothening using sandpaper, then carving. At first, I use a cutter to carve, now I use a machine, "said Fadli.

I receive orders for rings, necklaces, key chains to bags both in large and retail quantities. If the order comes in large quantities, he asks the help of his friends to make the craft from the coconut shell.

"for wedding souvenir, it takes three weeks or a month to make depending on the amount. Key chain is preferable for wedding souvenir," said Fadli.

The prices of the products varies, for example, plain rings ranging from IDR. 25,000 (USD 1.8) to IDR.900,000 (USD63) for skull-patterned necklaces.

The rings and necklaces produced by *the Sayak.co* have been marketed to various regions in Indonesia. Fadli even marketed his products directly in Jakarta and Bali. These products are offered directly to tourists. He can sell hundreds of rings and necklaces made from coconut shells. Every month, he earns IDR.4-5 million

(USD.282-352), the biggest turnover that he can earn is IDR 10 million (USD 704).

Those who are interested in buying Sayak.co products can order them directly through Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/sayak.co> (<https://finance.detik.com>)

### **KIK REACHES OUT TO FARMERS IN GULF**

Many people associate coconut with the tedious task of copra making but forget that it is more than that and blesses us with shade, juice and palms and fronds for uses other than copra. Within this context KIK or Kokonas Industri Koporesen has been working in Gulf Province and has set up a nursery at Terapo and collecting seeds for the gene bank in Ihu and encouraging small scale processing in Iokea. In that context KIK offered to run the Coconut Downstream processing Training (CDSP) for our coconut farmers in Gulf Province, this year. The first training was conducted at Terapo this week.

This hands-on training is essential for coconut farmers in the region to understand the value of the coconut palms. Many coconut farmers correlate coconuts (mature dry coconut) to copra which defeats the hidden income potentials of the crop. The scheduled CDSP training encompassed – production of virgin coconut oil by wet process; simple soap making from scratch/scented soaps; livestock feed (pig/poultry); infused scented body lotions; oil for use; and food safety and sanitation.

There were more than 50 coconut farmers that the Kokonas Industri Koporesen has been working with in the area targeted for training. The training was at Terapo Catholic Station where there were classroom facilities including the nursery. It is intended to expand these activities for coconut farmers back to East Kerema and Central Kerema LLG and to Ihu, Baimuru and Kikori.

The coconut down streaming processing training by the KIK team was attended by more than 60 farmers, including

two Malalua High School teachers and our colleagues from Gulf Division of Primary Industry. These comments from Malalua High School teachers were very encouraging in that for this type of training to enlighten our people with the coconut – “Tree of Life”.

The training was done to show our coconut farmers why they were planting coconut seedlings from the Terapo Coconut Nursery. Many participants were indeed surprised at the number of products that coconut can produce. (<https://www.kik.com.pg>)

### **AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE LOANS FOR COCONUT WATER SELLERS**

At the launch of the “Healthy Drink, Healthy Life” campaign, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said it will provide funding for poor families and out of school youth willing to sell coconut products in Metro Manila, as a means of supporting coconut farmers beset by weak copra prices. The ‘Healthy Drink, Healthy Life’ campaign targets to expand the market for young coconut, which is the source of coconut water and takes less time and labor to get ready for market than copra.

Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol, who led the launch, said that copra prices are dictated by the world market, but the DA hopes to help farmers to better exploit opportunities to sell young coconut. “There is very little we can do in terms of pricing because it is dictated by the world market but there are small things we can do to make sure the oversupply can be addressed,” said Secretary Piñol.

The loan program scheme involves lending money to out of school youth in groups of four, providing sufficient capitals to buy a multi-cab and inventory. They can sell the young coconut in areas approved by the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA). MMDA General Manager Danilo Lim, who was

there at the launch, said the authority will support the program. The DA will also seek to encourage restaurants to use more young coconut products, which include the flesh of the nut. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

### **PHILIPPINE FARM PRODUCTS FIND EASTERN EUROPE GATEWAY**

The Belarusian government has welcomed various agricultural products that the Department of Agriculture (DA) would like to export to the vast Eastern European market.

This developed following a visit by a Philippine delegation led by Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol to Belarus, where he talked with companies interested in Philippine agricultural investments.

In a statement on Monday, Piñol said the meetings with his Belarusian counterparts served as a "gateway" to penetrate the rest of the Easter.

European market. He said the government of Belarus asked the DA to submit a list of agricultural products eyed for export so that these could be issued with sanitary permits prior to the Philippine participation in the biggest agricultural expo in June this year.

"Among the products to be showcased in the Bel-Agro Festival to be held in Minsk are coconut, especially green young coconuts and coconut water, mango, banana, pineapple, canned tuna, bottled sardines and premium coffee and cacao," Piñol said.

The Bel-Agro Festival is participated by at least 20 Eastern European countries, Belarus Deputy Minister Ivan Smilhin told Pinol.

"Smilhin said the Philippines will have to undertake a promotional campaign for its products, especially coconut because it is a new commodity to [Eastern European Union] consumers who have been using sunflower and olive oil," Piñol said.

Piñol said the DA had secured the initial shipment of products including mango, canned pineapple, canned tuna and the display of coconut products in one of the stores of Euro-Opt, a leading supermarket chain in Belarus.

Aside from the DA, the delegation was composed of representatives from the Department of Trade and Industry, the Philippine Rice Research Institute, CIIF-Oil Management Group, and Planters' Products Inc. (<http://www.atinitonews.com>)

### **QUALITY OF COCONUT OIL CERTIFIED!**

Chairman of Coconut Development Authority H.K. Udaya Roopasinghe stated that all coconut oil distributed to the market will be subject to quality assessment under laboratory conditions, certified and labelled for good use.

The coconut oil industry is being regulated by the Coconut Development Authority. Some companies tend to collect wasted coconut oil disposed by temples and holy places for their production process, and therefore, law will be enforced against them to stop, further added by Mr. Roopasinghe.

The Chairman requests the assistance of the public in launching this good cause, informing them to contact the raiding division of the Coconut Development Authority by calling the numbers 0112502501, 0112502502 or 0112502503 regarding any information on places producing dirty coconut oil.

The Coconut Development Authority further informs that coconut oil that are not recommended for usage, mostly mixed with palm oil, are sold for lesser prices in the market, and any domestic coconut oil suspicious for good use can be sent for quality assessment to the Coconut Development Board in Narahenpita. A quality-assessed coconut oil bottle currently is sold for Rs. 270 - 360 in the market.

Over 10000 - 12000 metric tons of coconut oil are being produced annually, in

which only around 8000 - 9000 metric tons of them are being used for food preparation. People are likely to get intoxicated with poisonous seeds obtaining copra dried by sun or fire, and therefore, coconuts are recommended to be dried using technology that is involved in food preparation, the Chairman added.

Many coconut-related products i.e. king coconut water, coconut water, coconut, copra, coconut oil, virgin oil, vinegar, coconut cream, butter, jam are currently being exported to countries like the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Canada, Germany, Japan, Italy, Middle East and African countries. (<https://lankanewsweb.net>)

#### **COCONUT TREES ARE BEING CUT INDISCRIMINATELY - DAYASIRI JAYASEKARA**

The third reading or the committee stage debate of the budget took place today (March 13).

The debates on a number of expenditure heads, including the expenditures of the President's and Prime Minister's and independent commissions was held today (March 13).

UPFA MP Dayasiri Jayasekara and Minister of Plantation Industries, Navin Dissanayake discussed the cutting of coconut trees before the debate.

Dayasiri Jayasekara noted that Minister Akila Viraj Kariyawasam had cut down 4600 coconut trees in an area of 44 acres with the intention of erecting a Volkswagen factory which ultimately proved to be a hoax. Then, on the other hand, Nalin Bandara is cutting down 90,000 Coconut trees on a 1200-acre land. He added that the 1200-acre land is speared into 40-50 acre subplots. The Minister questioned on how the government intends to sustain coconut cultivation if they continue to cut down coconut trees indiscriminately.

Minister of Plantation Industries, Navin Dissanayake attempted to clarify the matter.

He noted that the government policy is to come up with free trade zones yet strict conditions are imposed if coconut trees are to be cut. It has advised to replace the trees cut down with a similar amount of coconut plants. He noted that most lands in Kurunegala are being fragmented and trees are cut down causing heavy collateral damage which the government must avoid. Nevertheless, the Minister noted that they have informed the Fragmentation Board to offer necessary instructions when necessary. He also added that the government intends to allocate 40,000-50,000 acres of land from North and Eastern provinces to sustain coconut cultivation.

Dayasiri Jayasekara added that import of palm oil has also become an issue, especially due to its impact on the coconut growing and oil manufacturing industries. He demanded Minister Navin Dissanayake to stop the import of palm oil.

Navin Dissanayake inquired why Dayasiri Jayasekara who is concerned now was silent during Mahinda Rajapaksa's regime when 20,000 hectares were given to grow the palm plant. Consequently, the decision was withdrawn due to environmental concerns. The Minister added that he would take the sole responsibility and say that 20,000 acres were not harmful and it is executed in an eco-friendly manner.

Dayasiri Jayasekara added that what he meant was he did not want to see Sri Lanka turn into another Malaysia or Indonesia as those countries face issues with palm oil. He added that there is a strong objection towards palm oil imports terminated.

Navin Dissanayake responded that the same countries in their 60s and 70s deforested to grow palm oil and Sri Lankan government would not go to that extent and would only use a 20,000-hectare land to grow the palm oil plant.

"This is a country where we can't even take a policy decision," Minister Navin Dissanayake said as he took his seat. (<https://www.newsfirst.lk>)

### **VIETNAMESE MAN TURNS COCONUT SHOOTS INTO NOVEL ORNAMENTAL PLANTS**

A young man from Vietnam's Mekong Delta region has created a new type of decorative plant from the shoots of coconuts as a way to seek buyers for the fruits whose demand has sunk deeply.

The southwestern province of Ben Tre is known as the country's coconut basket but these days local coconut prices have plummeted to a discouragingly low VND1,500 (6 U.S. cents) per coconut.

Many growers felt no motivation to sell the fruits and simply let them fall from the trees and produce seedlings all across their farms.

The farm of Nguyen Minh Chi's family had the same fate, causing coconuts to pile up in his front yard and be completely ignored by traders.

While worrying about what to do with them, the 24-year-old man came up with a salvage idea: using coconut shoots as ornamental plants.

Chi began by selecting seedlings with beautiful and strange shapes, and removed rough fibers known as the coir from coconut shells.

The resultant husk was then carefully smoothed in a way that the shoot was intact.

At first he encountered multiple failures in cultivating coconut seedlings in clay pots as their roots did not grow in the soil he chose.

When the experimentation was successful, he tried growing young coconut plants in a pot of water.

An important step was placing them in a position that would make the plants look pleasantly strange.

He said his products received positive reactions from social media users and more or less 200 of them had been sold at prices ranging from several hundred thousand dong (VND100,000 = \$4.3) to just over VND1 million (\$43) apiece.

He might have more ideas with coconut seedlings in the hope of boosting sales in his hometown, he added. (<http://tuoitrenews.vn>)

### **ITALIAN PRODUCE IMPORTS VIETNAMESE DRINKING COCONUTS**

Italian Produce is bringing a little tropical sunshine to the Ontario Food Terminal with ready-to-drink Hamona coconuts from Vietnam's Mekong Delta.

President Vince Bruno said the product arrives frozen and is thawed a day or two before being shipped to store shelves, where it lasts two to three weeks. Customers can poke the soft "sprout eye" with the enclosed straw to drink the sweet coconut water, then crack open the shell to scoop out the jelly inside, if desired.

Bruno said Longo's is his first customer. According to the Hamona site, "Enjoying a coconut is now easier than drinking a Coke." (<https://www.thepacker.com>)

### **COCONUT INDUSTRY RECEIVES A BOOST AS DEMAND FOR EXPORT INCREASES**

High demand for Coconut fruits and by-products for export and local consumption has become a great source of incentive for many graduates and unemployed youth in the Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abirem, KEEA municipality of the Central Region, to venture into large scale cultivation of coconut as a cash crop.

The Ghana Export Promotion Authority, recently at a ceremony to present 60,000 hybrid coconut seedlings to members of Coconut Producers and Exporters Association in the Central Region, indicated that projected world demand for

coconut and its by-products is estimated to grow to 2.8 Billion Dollars by 2021.

Current production level in Ghana is 224 million coconut fruits annually, and 179 million of the total production is produced by small holder farmers.

An acre of coconut farm produces averagely 700 to 1000 coconut fruits on monthly basis, with an estimated market value of about one thousand Ghana cedis (Ghc1,000) amounting to annual returns of twelve thousand Ghana cedis (Ghc 12,000).

More than one hundred of the youth have already benefited from free distribution of new variety of coconut seedlings under the Planting for Export and Rural Development, PERD initiative, being rolled out by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, as part of its flagship program, Planting for food and Jobs.

Many of the beneficiaries cultivate between one acre and ten acres averagely. Another batch of 350 farmers are to benefit from 20,000 coconut seedlings to be distributed free of charge by June this year.

Madam Victoria Dansoa Abankwa, the KEEA Municipal Director for the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, disclosed this during a field orientation tour for NABCO personnel who are being trained and equipped to offer technical assistance to the farmers.

She noted that coconut as a cash crop has huge benefits for the individual farmers and the local economy, adding that the value chain cuts across those who consume coconut for its health and nutritional benefits, to those engaged in commercial production of coconut oil and other by-products for industrial purposes.

Madam Victoria Dansoa Abankwa indicated that the new hybrid coconut seedlings is resistant to the Cape St. Paul Wilt Disease, which affected and collapsed many coconut farms and firms set up to process coconut for export a couple of years ago.

She said the new hybrid coconut is a high yielding type of coconut and takes between 3-4 years to start bearing fruits.

She hinted that the Ministry is engaging traditional authorities in the KEEA Municipality to collaborate with them, and release land to the farmers for the cultivation of the coconut cash crop.

The Municipal Chief Executive for KEEA, Nana Appiah Korang, lauded the government for the initiative, saying that the Planting for Export and Rural Development program will offer alternative livelihood to fishing for the people of Elmina and its environs. He noted that the challenges associated with fishing especially during the lean season requires such an initiative to serve as alternative livelihood to sustain the local economy.

A prospective beneficiary of the initiative, Mr. Godfred Kwaku Adu-Gyamfi, encouraged the youth, especially those unemployed, to take advantage of the planting for Export and Rural Development, PERD program, and secure their future, adding that by cultivating coconut as a cash crop, they will be able to create jobs for themselves and build their capacity to employ others as their contribution to reduce the unemployment rate in the country.

In all, about 500 farmers will benefit from free distribution of over 27,000 hybrid coconut seedlings to be cultivated on about 400 acres as part of the first phase of the Planting for Export and Rural Development program in the KEEA Municipality. (<http://newsaficanow.com>)

#### **FIVE SUPERSTARS FOR LIVER HEALTH INCLUDES COCONUT-BASED PRODUCT**

Data from SPINS, a market research firm specializing in natural products category, revealed the liver health category brought in around \$31 million to dietary supplements sales across multiple sales channels, NutraIngredients-USA reported on February 12. These are Milk Thistle,

Dandelion, Glutathione, Alpha Lipoic Acid, and Choline.

Alpha Lipoic Acid is compound derived from caprylic acid, which can be found in various mammal milk as well as coconut or palm kernel oil. Though it did not make SPIN's top 10 ingredients in terms of sales, but it did make it to the top 10 in terms of dollar growth. In 2018, sales of alpha lipoic acid supplements in the liver health category went up by almost 30%, hitting \$129,000, the report said.

An animal study conducted by Serbian researchers published in 2014 found that, alpha lipoic acid may improve fat peroxidation and nitrosative stress in mice that have been induced with NAFLD (non-alcoholic fatty liver disease) through a methionine- and choline-deprived diet. Additionally, they linked alpha lipoic acid supplementation to an increase in DHA. Other studies that provide evidence of alpha lipoic acid's benefits include a 2012 rat study done in Korea and a 2018 study by Iranian researchers conducted on obese patients with NAFLD. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

#### **SINGAPORE FIRM TAPPING INTO MCT POWER TO DEVELOP AND COMMERCIALIZE FOOD SUPPLEMENTS**

A Singapore-based health food company, Keto Science, is tapping into the science behind medium-chain triglycerides (MCTs) to develop and commercialize food supplements that are both nutritious and convenient to consume. Dr. MCT, a brand belonging to company, carries a line of MCT products in two delivery formats: oil and powder. Its 100% MCT oil comes in 250 ml and 500 ml bottles, while its MCT powder comes in either 350g tub, or a box of 30 7g sachets. The MCT oil is recommended as a salad dressing, and the powder can be added to food and drink, such as coffee, tea, smoothies, soup, stew and curry.

Speaking to NutraIngredients-Asia, Keto Science's Assistant Marketing Manager Kueh Vi Vien said: "MCT supplements are quite new in the market.

We explain MCTs to the layman as 'the essence of coconut oil'. In the past, coconut oil itself was hyped up because of its health benefits, as well as endorsements from celebrities and even nutritionists."

Indeed, MCTs are the key ingredient in coconut oil, which contains between 40% and 50% MCTs. MCTs are also found in human breastmilk, though they make up only 5% of the total composition. Kueh said dr. MCT's MCTs were extracted from plant sources, from which it was possible to obtain 100% pure MCT. She added: "We only extract what is called the caprylic C8 and capric C10 components; these are the components that are most readily absorbed by the body. Coconut oil has other C, or carbon chain components, but those are not effective." (*UCAP Bulletin*)

#### **SUPER CLONES TO CONQUER COCONUT CRISIS**

Ageing coconut palm trees could be replaced quickly and cheaply by superior cloned coconuts being developed by University of Queensland researchers.

PhD student Eveline Kong, from the Cocobio Laboratory at UQ's School Of Agriculture and Food Sciences, said the project would help avoid a coconut shortage caused by old coconut palms becoming less productive each year.

"Hype for coconut products used as dairy alternatives, for coconut oil or snacks is driving exponential growth in the market," Ms. Kong said.

"However, the industry faces a looming shortage as most trees were planted 70 or more years ago and every year these older plants produce fewer and fewer coconuts."

She said rough estimates suggested that nearly a billion new trees need to be planted to meet rising demand.

"The problem is that conventional breeding – from seed – takes a long time and it's hard to breed palms with specific characteristics.

"So to keep up with market demands we're developing coconut cloning, propagation and conservation techniques that are fast, economical and let us select desired traits.

"It should only take three years to turn a baby palm – a plantlet – into a fruit bearing tree, a dramatic improvement on traditional breeding methods that can take many years."

The team plans to clone coconut plantlets from 'mother' plants that are high yield, disease resistant and drought tolerant.

"We're not only aiding productivity, but also creating a more resilient, more nutritious coconut," Ms. Kong said.

"We do this by taking a small piece of tissue from the mother plant and then growing it in culture, helping achieve high rates of coconut cell multiplication.

"Once the cells form into embryos, they're transferred to a platform containing nutrients and growth hormones this stimulates roots, stem and leaf production.

"From there it's a matter of planting, and then, voilà.

"These advances will bring great benefits to Australian farmers, as well as farmers from Pacific nations like Fiji, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Kiribati – so our research is truly protecting livelihoods around the globe." (<https://www.uq.edu.au>)

## TRADE NEWS

### PHILIPPINE EXPORT OF COCONUT PRODUCTS UP SHARPLY IN DECEMBER 2018

Official data from the Philippine Statistics Authority revealed Philippine export of coconut products leaped 43.6% in December to 171,779 MT in copra terms from 119,607 MT at the same time a year earlier. Gross export receipts, however, dipped 9.9% to USD139.903 million from

USD155.207 million mainly on low coconut oil price.

Export of coconut oil jumped 44.4% to 94,487 MT from 65,457 MT and desiccated coconut shot up 74.0% to 11,210 MT from 6,444 MT. On the other hand, shipment of copra meal dropped 29.4% to 22,807 MT from 32,324 MT and oleochemicals fell 22.2% to 4,468 MT as copra from 5,744 MT.

Other products performed as follows, in MT: coco shell charcoal 3,644 (+3.4% from 3,524 year-ago), activated carbon 5,259 (+3.1% from 5,099), virgin coconut oil 1,428 (+14.5% from 1,247), coco water 5.081 million liters (-11.2% from 5.723 million), fresh coconuts 122,485 nuts (+58.6% from 77,231), Others 8,261 (+68.4% from 4,905).

Total export for calendar year 2018 was 1,760,936 MT in copra terms, mildly rising by 4.0% from 1,692,760 MT in a similar period year-ago. Corresponding revenue slumped 17.0% to USD1.882 billion from USD2.268 billion. Breakdown of export by volume is as follows, in MT: copra 92 (111 year-ago), coconut oil 951,353 (912,631), copra meal 400,759 (256,173), desiccated coconut 127,889 (115,005), oleochemicals as copra 53,034 (66,222); Coco shell charcoal 75,517 (33,690), activated carbon 73,359 (70,352), virgin coconut oil 24,897 (26,860), coco water 76.208 million liters (85.545 million), fresh coconuts 1.446 million nuts (1.462 million), Others 115,761 (133,109). (*UCAP Bulletin*)

### DESTINATIONS OF COCONUT OIL EXPORT IN DECEMBER

Export of coconut oil in December consisted of 74,094 MT crude coconut oil, 15,823 MT cochin (refined, bleached) oil, and 4,570 MT RBD (refined, bleached and deodorized) oil, with aggregate value of USD79.283 million. Europe was top destination with combined uptake of 54,683 MT, trailed by the US with 28,394 MT, China 4,673 MT, Panama 4,500 MT and Japan 1,767 MT.

Crude coconut oil was shipped largely to Europe at 54,208 MT (Netherlands 48,708, Spain 4,500, Italy 1,000) followed by the US at 15,214 MT, Panama 4,500 MT, and Sri Lanka 172 MT. The US took the lead in cochin oil at 12,837 MT, followed by China at 1,780 MT and Japan at 1,206 MT. China was primary market for RBD coconut oil at 2,893 MT, trailed by Japan at 561 MT, Europe at 474 MT (Netherlands 381, Poland 83, Germany 10), US 343 MT, Taiwan 200 MT, Malaysia 61 MT, Singapore 20 MT, Vietnam 17 MT.

#### **...OF COPRA MEAL**

Export of copra meal in December which totaled 22,807 MT generated USD3.805 million. Over half (55.5%) of the month's shipment went to South Korea at 12,647 MT. The next three major importers were China with 3,600 MT (15.8%), Vietnam 3,300 MT (14.5%) and India 2,860 MT (12.5%). Taiwan took in limited volume at 400 MT (1.8%).

#### **...OF DESICCATED COCONUT**

Shipment of desiccated coconut at 11,210 MT in December was worth USD21.750 million. The US market captured more one-third (34.1%) of the total with 3,817 MT. Second biggest importer was Netherlands at 1,390 MT (12.4%). The next three major buyers collectively accounted for 15.8% namely, Brazil 625 MT, Turkey 584 MT, and Australia 565 MT.

A dozen other countries had purchases ranging 109-498 MT and jointly comprised 29.7% of the market namely, United Kingdom, China, Israel, Canada, Russia, Germany, Belgium, France, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Spain. Smaller volume ranging 1-82 MT went to 26 countries and jointly contributed 8.0% to total sales: South Africa, Georgia, Italy, Malaysia, New Zealand, Paraguay, Jordan, Chile, Sweden, Costa Rica, Saudi Arabia, Ireland, Thailand, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Estonia, Argentina, Ecuador, Colombia, Poland, Uruguay, Guatemala, Indonesia, Peru, Finland, United Arab Emirates.

#### **...OF COCO SHELL PRODUCTS**

External trade of coco shell charcoal in December was 3,644 MT with turnover of USD2.095 million. Key markets were Japan and China with almost equal uptakes at 1,620 MT (44.5%) and 1,607 MT (44.1%), respectively. Other destinations were South Korea at 297 MT (8.1%) and Turkey 120 MT (3.3%).

Outbound cargo of activated carbon in the same month was 5,259 MT and earned USD9.261 million in foreign exchange. Leading buyers Germany and Japan almost took in equivalent loads with respective volume at 914 MT (17.4%) and 913 MT (17.4%). Trailing behind them were the US at 609 MT (11.6%), South Korea 501 MT (9.5%), China 339 MT (6.4%), and eight other countries with purchases ranging 116-251 MT and aggregate market share of 25.0% namely Taiwan, Sri Lanka, Canada, Indonesia, Russia, Ivory Coast, Netherlands, South Africa.

Meanwhile 17 countries with offtake in the range 4-93 MT together contributed 12.7%. This included Peru, India, Italy, Finland, Dominican Republic, Congo, Spain, Australia, Chile, Hong Kong, United Kingdom, France, Tanzania, Lebanon, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

#### **PERFORMANCE OF PHILIPPINE TOP NON-TRADITIONAL COCO PRODUCTS EXPORTS IN DECEMBER 2018**

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority show 13 non-traditional coconut products generated export revenue of more than USD100,000 during the month to qualify in the top non-traditional export products category. The top five non-traditional exports revealed respective earnings of more than USD1.000 million: coconut water, virgin coconut oil, hydrogenated coconut oil, coco milk liquid and glycerin.

COCONUT WATER, this month's top non-traditional export product, generated USD7.322 million from shipment of 5.081

million liters. The volume was 11.2% lower than last year at 5.723 million liters. The US was primary destination controlling 3.035 million liters (59.7% of total), followed far behind by Brazil at 1.100 million liters (21.7%), Canada 412,839 liters (8.1%) and Australia 272,483 liters (5.4%). Six other countries shared the balance of 260,467 liters (5.1%).

VIRGIN COCONUT OIL with gross export receipts of USD4.716 million from sale of 1,428 MT settled in the second place. Volume was 14.5% above year-ago at 1,247 MT. The US was market leader, capturing 578 MT (40.5%), followed by Canada 363 MT (25.4%), Germany 107 MT (7.5%), Belgium 81 MT (5.6%), Brazil 71 MT (5.0%), India 44 MT (3.1%), United Kingdom 38 MT (2.7%) and 18 other countries with combined import of 147 MT (10.3%).

HYDROGENATED COCONUT OIL, which took the third spot, had income of USD1.802 million from cargo at 549 MT (no export recorded year-ago). The US was the biggest market at 172 MT (31.3%), trailed by Canada at 123 MT (22.4%), Germany 89 MT (16.1%), United Kingdom 74 MT (13.4%) and six other countries sharing 92 MT (16.8%).

Fourth in rank COCO MILK LIQUID recorded proceeds of USD1.720 million from delivery of 893 MT, more than 6-times year-ago volume at 143 MT. There were five country destinations with US taking in bulk of shipment at 599 MT (67.1%) while smaller volumes went to Australia at 120 MT (13.5%), Japan 95 MT (10.6%), Portugal 60 MT (6.7%) and Canada 19 MT (2.2%).

Fifth placer GLYCERIN had turnover of USD1.404 million from overseas purchases of 1,810 MT. The shipment was down by 25.0% from last year's 2,413 MT. Top five destinations were: China 964 MT (53.2%), Japan 528 MT (29.2%), Vietnam 105 MT (5.8%), Russia and Turkey at 64 MT apiece (3.6%). Four country importers shared the balance of 84 MT (4.7%).

The top six export, TOILET/BATH SOAP, registered earnings of USD556,389 from sale of goods amounting to 327 MT. Volume dropped 22.3% from same period year-ago at 421 MT. Vietnam was primary destinations at 174 MT (53.1%), followed far behind by Thailand at 49 MT (14.8%), Singapore 35 MT (10.7%), United Arab Emirates 24 MT (7.4%), Saudi Arabia 17 MT (5.3%) and South Korea at 13 MT (4.0%). Five other countries shared the remainder at 16 MT (4.8%).

COCO MILK POWDER landed seventh and turned in USD541,706 from delivery of 94 MT (197 MT year-ago). There were six importing countries led by Australia at 33 MT (34.6%), tracked by Mexico 20 MT (21.1%), France and United Kingdom at 14 MT apiece (14.6%), Japan 13 MT (13.9%) and Indonesia 1 MT (1.3%). SOAP CHIPS which earned USD378,400 from external trade of 396 MT (no export recorded year-ago) filled in the eighth place and all shipments went to Nigeria.

COCO FLOUR rounded up the top nine non-traditional export contributing USD356,066. Tonnage at 236 MT rose by 39.8% from previous year at 169 MT. There were four outlets during the month led by the US at 127 MT (53.9%), followed by Australia 83 MT (35.3%), Germany 22 MT (9.5%), and Brazil 3 MT (1.3%).

COCO PEAT/DUST held the 10th position with shipment value at USD155,740 from transactions involving 2,878 MT. The tonnage multiplied more than 79 times last year data at 36 MT. There were only three country recipients with China as almost an exclusive destination at 2,822 MT (98.1%). Other markets were South Korea at 46 MT (1.6%) and Netherlands 9 MT (0.3%).

Completing the top 13 non-traditional exports were: coconut cream, coir and coir products and shampoo. COCO CREAM had revenue of USD128,221 from trade of 243 MT (1 MT). Netherlands was leading market at 160 MT (65.8%), followed by Thailand 72 MT (29.5%) and Australia 11 MT (4.7%).

COIR AND COIR PRODUCTS generated USD113,827 in foreign exchange income from total volume of 444 MT (950 MT). China was almost an exclusive market for coir and products with import at 440 MT (99.1%). The remaining 4 MT went to Netherlands.

SHAMPOO earned USD116,903 from purchases of 52 MT (5 MT). Mongolia held much of the load at 28 MT (53.9%), followed by Fiji 10 MT (19.8%) and seven other countries sharing the balance of 14 MT (26.3%). (*UCAP Bulletin*)

### **PHILIPPINE EXPORT OF COCONUT PRODUCTS SLIPPED IN JANUARY**

Export of coconut products in January slipped 1.0% to 147,926 MT in copra terms, according to UCAP estimates, from 149,348 MT in a similar month year-earlier, capping four straight months of year-on-year growth. The figure scaled back last month unofficial total at 191,344 MT by 22.7%.

Coconut oil export mildly rose by 1.9% to 85,198 MT from 83,573 MT year-ago. Nearly two-thirds (65.7%) of total delivery or 55,998 MT went to Europe. The US was responsible for one-third (33.5%) or 28,500 MT while Japan handled 700 MT (0.8%).

Outbound load of copra meal at 18,600 MT shrank 52.8% from 39,404 MT last year. Volume was almost equally distributed among Vietnam, South Korea and India with respective uptakes at 6,600 MT (34.9%), 6,300 MT (33.3%) and 6,000 MT (31.7%).

Shipment of desiccated coconut likewise contracted at 6,915 MT from 8,307 MT (-16.8%). Overseas purchases of oleochemicals also dropped at 2,000 MT as copra, nearly half of last year at 3,850 MT (-48.1%). There was no export of copra on record during the month, as of this report, as last year. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

### **ANALYSIS ON VEGETABLE OILS**

Prices were easier this week across all sectors.

In Rotterdam market, coconut oil resumed activity after prior week dullness. Trades reported were concluded at \$710-765/MT CIF compared to the last trades reported two weeks ago at \$660-755/MT CIF. Market opened again in the downside at \$662.50-777.50/MT CIF, reflecting weaker values in other markets. However, prices stayed mostly above opening levels during the week, except on Wednesday, in part linked to spillover gains in palm kernel oil. By weekend, prices stood at \$735-800/MT CIF.

Palm kernel oil was more active than coconut oil with business reported done at \$708.25-755/MT CIF, within range of the last traded level two weeks ago at \$700-785/ MT CIF. Market likewise started off lower at \$680-775/ MT CIF and thereafter levels stayed above opening rates until the weekend. Prices by then ranged \$727.50-792.50/ MT CIF.

Hence, coconut oil price went at a discount under palm kernel oil notably for positions from February/March through to April/May but were back at premium in farther deferred positions as shown following: February/March -\$41.25 (\$0.00 last week); March/April -\$4.38 ( \$0.50); April/May -\$0.35 (\$2.25); May/June \$2.55 (\$3.00); June/July \$5.56 (\$6.00); July/August \$7.90 (\$7.50); August/September \$3.69 (\$15.00).

At the CBOT soya complex market, soybean futures stayed mostly bearish this week undermined by high stocks reported by USDA and on expectations level will remain low following limited purchases by China. News of cancellations by Chinese buyers of purchases amounting to over 800,000 tons added to the negative market sentiment. However, market ended the week higher on concerns dryness in Brazil could affect yields. Earlier during the week, analysts forecasted a 3% decline in Brazilian soya crop.

At the palm oil section, bearishness likewise prevailed on weak demand. Low soybean oil prices also encouraged price

weakness as did strong Malaysian ringgit. Cargo surveyors reported 11.2-15.8% cut in Malaysian palm oil export for the first 10 days of February at 392,000-407,000 MT.

Prices of tropical oils for nearest forward shipment were mixed with lauric oils in the negative territory. Coconut oil led the plunge, dropping \$52.75 to \$666.25/MT CIF from last week at \$719.00 as against palm kernel oil with much lesser decline at \$11.50 at \$707.50/MT CIF from \$719.00. Palm oil rose further higher by \$23.62 to \$563.00/MT CIF from \$539.38. Thus coconut oil stayed at a discount under palm kernel oil by \$41.25/MT CIF after being par with each other week-ago and price spread over palm oil contracted anew to \$103.25/MT CIF from \$179.62 last week.

The local copra complex market continued a dull affair.

In Quezon, copra prices slipped again. Offers now ranged P2,100-2,250/100 kilos compared to P2,250-2,300 last week, against asking price range at P2,050-2,170/100 kilos compared to P2,200-2,220 a week earlier.

In Bicol, Visayas and Mindanao, prices likewise eased with sellers in the range P2,000-2,100/100 kilos from at P2,100-2,150 week-ago, against bids at P1,900-2,000/100 kilos from P2,000-2,050 previously, mill site basis. In the coconut oil section, market was still a one-sided affair with only sellers present. Crude coconut oil was offered at the latest at P70.70-74.50/kilo and RBD coconut oil at P76.00-94.75/kilo, both prices were below same time week-ago. Values exclude the 12% Value Added Tax. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

#### **SRI LANKA DESICCATED COCONUT EXPORT UP IN DECEMBER 2018**

Figures from Sri Lanka's Coconut Development Authority show the country's export of desiccated coconut sharply rose in December. Total at 3,268 MT was more than three times the volume in December year-earlier at 986 MT. The shipment worth USD6.533 million nearly doubled prior year

at USD3.279 million (+99.2%). Average traded price calculated at USD1,999.18/MT FOB plunged by 41% from prior year at USD3,387.45/MT. Total export in calendar year 2018 at 25,556 MT dropped by 13.1% from a comparable year-ago period data at 29,418 MT.

Export in December went to at least 41 countries. The top 11 importers held volume above 100 MT and collectively accounted for 73.1% of total trade. The United States was market leader with 514 MT (15.7% share), followed by India 311 MT (9.5%), UAE/Dubai 265 MT (8.1%), Iraq 258 MT (7.9%), Egypt 214 MT (6.5%), Saudi Arabia 187 MT (5.7%), Spain 138 MT (4.2%), Germany 133 MT (4.1%), Turkey 129 MT (3.9%), Canada 126 MT (3.8%) and Pakistan 113 MT (3.5%). The remaining 30 countries which aggregately accounted for 26.9% for a total of 880 MT took in volume ranging from a low of 1 MT to a high of 90 MT. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

#### **SRI LANKA VIRGIN COCONUT OIL EXPORT DOWN IN 2018**

Figures from Sri Lanka's Coconut Development Authority also show the country's export of virgin coconut oil dropped by 13.1% to 12,006 MT in calendar year 2018 from 13,816 MT in a comparable period year-ago. Value of export at USD58.819 million likewise slid 15.3% from previous year at USD69.442 million. Average traded price at USD4,899.13/MT FOB fell by 2.5% from prior year at USD5,026.23/MT.

For the month of December alone, total export was 933 MT, rising by 15.6% from prior year at 807 MT. However, revenue at USD4.168 million dropped by 7.1% from year-ago at USD4.488 million. This brings average traded price during the month at USD4,467.41/MT FOB, lower by 19.7% from last year at USD5,561.09/MT.

During the 12-month period, export markets have run up to 79 countries. The top three buyers had uptakes above 1,000 MT: the United States at 3,267 MT (27.2%),

Australia 1,983 MT (16.5%), and Germany at 1,793 MT (14.9%). The next set of importers held volume above 100 MT, ranging 100-710 MT, and jointly accounted for 30.1%: United Kingdom 710 MT, Netherlands 422 MT, Canada 380 MT, France 342, Austria 253 MT, Sweden 231 MT, Israel 194 MT, Chile 175 MT, Slovenia 155 MT, UAE/Dubai 144 MT, Pakistan 141 MT, China 134 MT, Portugal 120 MT, Taiwan 115 MT and Russia 100 MT. The remaining 61 countries which aggregate accounted for 11.3% took in volume ranging 1-97 MT. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

### **... ACTIVATED CARBON EXPORT UP IN 2018**

Figures from Sri Lanka's Coconut Development Authority likewise show the country's export of activated carbon during calendar year 2018 slightly declined by 2.6% to 38,566 MT from 39,591 MT in a similar period year-earlier. Shipment value at USD94.827 million topped by 20.9% previous year data at USD78.451 million. Average traded price calculated at USD2,458.82/MT FOB leaped by 24.1% from USD1,981.55/MT. For the month of December alone, export at 2,661 MT dropped by 16.5% from previous year at 3,186 MT. Revenue likewise fell though slightly at USD6.440 million from USD6.697 million.

Export during the 12-month period went to at least 59 countries. The top ten importers held volumes above 1,000 MT and collectively accounted for 75.0% of total trade. Leading the pack was United States with 12,138 MT (31.5% share), followed far behind by China with 4,468 MT (11.6%), Japan 2,432 MT (6.3%), India 1,605 MT (4.2%), Turkey 1,581 MT (4.1%), Estonia 1,474 MT (3.8 %), Italy 1,405 MT (3.6%), South Korea 1,405 MT (3.6%), Germany 1,322 MT (3.4%) and Taiwan 1,163 MT (2.9%).

Twenty other countries also took in significant volume ranging 110-931 MT and jointly contributed 22.5%, namely Hong Kong 931 MT, Singapore 930 MT, Peru 746

MT, United Kingdom 734 MT, Ukraine 585 MT, South Africa 559 MT, Ghana 495 MT, Serbia 467 MT, Netherlands 456 MT, France 382 MT, Finland 359 MT, Egypt 338 MT, Surinam 330 MT, Poland 286 MT, Sweden 245 MT, Malaysia 225 MT, Canada 205 MT, Australia 168 MT, Mexico 120 MT, and Kenya 110 MT. The remaining 29 countries which aggregate shared 2.5% of total sales took in volume ranging from a low of 1 MT to a high of 97 MT. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

### **U.S. IMPORT OF LAURIC OILS DOWN IN NOVEMBER 2018**

Data from Oil World show the U.S. imported 43,900 MT of lauric oils in November, almost half of November year-ago at 91,200 MT (-51.9%) following sharp drops in coconut oil and palm kernel oil uptake respectively by 33.3% and 68.7%. Coconut oil accounted for 66.0% of the total with 29,000 MT (43,500 MT year-ago), while palm kernel oil comprised the remaining 34.0% with 14,900 MT (47,700 MT).

The Philippines was top supplier of lauric oil to the U.S. during the month with shipment of 23,500 MT (28,800 MT) of coconut oil, the equivalent of 53.5% of total lauric oil import. Indonesia contributed 28.2% or 12,400 MT (50,800 MT) of which 4,200 MT (13,800 MT) was coconut oil and 8,200 MT (37,000 MT) was palm kernel oil. Malaysia shared 15.0% or 6,600 MT (4,700 MT) of palm kernel oil. Purchases from other countries totaled 1,400 MT (7,000 MT), of which 1,300 MT (900 MT) was coconut oil and 100 MT (6,100 MT) was palm kernel oil.

The cumulative January-November figure which stood at 758,400 MT was behind by 5.8% from a comparable year-earlier period total at 804,900 MT. Coconut oil uptake was 440,900 MT (422,400 MT) of which 69.8% or 307,800 MT (271,300 MT) came from the Philippines. Palm kernel oil was 317,500 MT (382,500 MT) of which 75.2% or 238,900 MT (290,500 MT) originated from Indonesia. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

## COMBINED EXPORT OF WORLD'S MAJOR DESICCATORS DOWN IN DECEMBER 2018

According to collated country data from the Philippines Statistics Authority and Sri Lanka's Coconut Development Authority, the combined export of desiccated coconut in December by the Philippines and Sri Lanka shot up by 95.3% to 14,478 MT from 7,412 MT in a similar month year-earlier.

Export from the Philippines, which accounted for 77.4% of combined volume, sharply rose by 74.0% to 11,210 MT from 6,444 MT while shipment from Sri Lanka at 3,268 MT more than tripled prior year at 968 MT year-ago. Computed average traded price of Philippine desiccated coconut was USD1,940.19/MT FOB (USD2,331.70/ MT last year) as against Sri Lanka's average price at USD1,999.18/MT FOB (USD3,387.45/MT).

The cumulative figure for calendar year 2018 at 153,445 MT slightly increased by 6.2% from 144,423 MT in the same period year-ago driven by increased shipment from the Philippines. Export from the Philippines at 127,889 MT rose by 11.2% from prior year at 115,005 MT, while delivery from Sri Lanka at 25,556 MT was down by 13.1% from 29,418 MT. In terms of market share, the Philippines was responsible for 83.3% and Sri Lanka 16.7%. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

## TAJA COCONUT INTRODUCES NEW BOTTLED COCONUT WATER IN THE MARKET

Taja Coconut announced last month the launch of its nonGMO and sugar-free bottled coconut water brand, TAJA. TAJA coconut water was created by beverage industry veteran and engineer by trade, Nilang Patel that uses a patented multi-step cold filtration process to produce coconut water that the company claims is as close to drinking right out of a coconut as one can get.

By now, most consumers are familiar with coconut water and are aware of its

naturally high levels of electrolytes including potassium and magnesium. What started out as niche beverage has reached mainstream acceptance with some of the biggest beverage players investing heavily in the category in recent years. "The coconut water category is crowded, but we're aiming to do something different," TAJA Coconut President, Hallie Lorber, told FoodNavigator-USA.

According to Patel, most products on the market miss the mark on an authentic coconut water taste profile because most go through a heated pasteurization process or are exposed to oxygen during the process. Patel, who has filed around 49 patents independently, set out to develop a process that would preserve the coconut water in its purest form, never exposing the liquid to air, high amounts of pressure, or heat. What he developed over the course of a few years, was a three-step process that involves harvesting the tender green coconuts from farmers in India, extracting the liquid, and using a seven step cold filtration process before bottling. "As a result, it locks in all the nutrients, it doesn't turn cloudy or pink," Lorber said. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

## BIO-DIESEL NEWS

### ENI AND PERTAMINA FORGE AGREEMENT FOR GREEN FUEL REFINERY

Indonesian state-owned energy company PT. Pertamina recently said that it has signed an agreement with Italian oil company ENI SpA to develop a green refinery in Indonesia and to process a palm oil-based fuel mixture in Italy, according to Reuters.

Pertamina said the joint venture agreement will produce fuel completely derived from crude palm oil (CPO) in the Indonesian facility. The company also signed an agreement which would allow it to process CPO in ENI's refinery in Italy to produce hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO), which can be used as a mixture in diesel fuel, Reuters said.

The two companies were also in talks to potentially produce HVO in Indonesia. And they had agreed to conduct studies into potentially converting three Pertamina refineries to produce palm-based biodiesel. ENI has been operating in Indonesia since 2001. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

### **PALM TRADE WAR LOOMS AS EUROPE SETS LIMITS ON USE IN BIOFUEL**

Palm oil emerged as a flashpoint in a potential trade war between the European Union and some of the world's largest developing nations after the bloc imposed stricter limits on how the crop can be used in green fuels.

The European Commission on Wednesday restricted the types of biofuels from palm oil that may be counted toward the EU's renewable-energy goals and introduced a certification system. Indonesia and Malaysia, which supply 85 percent of the crop, have warned that they are ready to retaliate against what they see as "discriminatory" rules.

Palm oil prices have dropped 18 percent since the start of 2018 partly because of a campaign by environmental groups to reduce use of the crop in fuels that was endorsed by the European Parliament. The EU rules left some loopholes that will weaken the overall impact of the restrictions. Benchmark futures fell for the seventh day on Thursday, the worst streak since November.

"The exemptions to smallholders do not solve the discrimination exercised against palm oil," said Mahendra Siregar, Executive Director of the Council of Palm Oil Producing Countries.

"It fails to recognize the considerable efforts made to secure sustainable palm oil from plantations. Palm oil producing countries should continue to apply pressure on the EU."

The move was required by a broader law agreed by the 28-nation bloc last year, when the European Parliament pushed for

curbs on the use of palm oil on concerns its production caused deforestation and aggravated climate change.

The EU wants to lead the battle against global warming and has toughened goals to reduce greenhouse gases blamed for climate change. It aims to cut emissions by at least 40 percent by 2030 compared with 1990 levels, boost the share of renewable energy to 32 percent and increase energy efficiency by 32.5 percent.

"Today's decision puts a welcomed brake on the craziness of subsidizing the burning of palm oil for energy," said Ariel Brunner, Senior Head of policy for the environmental group BirdLife Europe.

"Unfortunately, it still has many loopholes and doesn't affect other drivers of deforestation and biodiversity loss, such as soy. The EU is still locked into a perverse policy that incentivizes environmental destruction and increases greenhouse gas emissions in the name of fighting climate change."

The move set up the EU for conflict with producing nations, which had stepped up their lobbying against the provision in recent weeks.

The Council of Palm Oil Producing Countries, whose members Indonesia, Malaysia and Colombia produce about 90 percent of global supply, announced they will jointly challenge the bill through bilateral consultations, as well as through the World Trade Organization. The council said the law uses a "scientifically flawed" concept that targets palm oil and "makes no attempt to include broader environmental concerns" linked to other vegetable oils.

Malaysia plans to halt all expansion of oil palm plantations as it seeks to dispel the oil's reputation as a driver of deforestation, Minister of Primary Industries Teresa Kok said in an interview earlier this month.

The EU accounted for 12 percent of Malaysia's palm oil exports in 2018, making

it the biggest buyer after India, according to the Malaysian Palm Oil Board.

Indonesia has warned that the EU restrictions on the use of palm oil would jeopardize the nation's fight against poverty. The country's special envoy on palm oil has said that Indonesia and the EU need to find a "win-win" solution, adding that his country considered buying around 250 new airplanes, with Airbus among possible suppliers.

In a letter dated March 8, Indonesia's Minister for Foreign Affairs Retno Marsudi told EU High Representative Federica Mogherini that palm oil producing countries "may have no choice but proceed to the WTO" should Europe approve the restrictions on the use of palm oil.

The EU argues the new measure and palm-oil sustainability criteria are compatible with WTO rules. The new regulation is now set for a two-month scrutiny period when the bloc's member states and the European Parliament can express objections. If none is received, the measure will be published in the EU official journal and become a law. (*The Jakarta Post, March 2019*)

#### **MALAYSIA'S B10 MANDATE KICKS OFF THIS MONTH**

Full implementation of the B10 biodiesel mandate for the transport sector in Malaysia kicked off on February 1. Malaysian Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad launched the B10 program on December 1 last year to raise the blend of palm oil in diesel fuel from 7% to 10%. A B7 blending mandate for the industrial sector would begin on 1 July this year as well. Implementation of the B10 mandate should increase demand for biodiesel by 100,000 to 250,000 tons/year, price reporting agency S&P Global Platts reported.

Primary Industries Minister Teresa Kok said the B7 program would also boost local demand for palm oil to about 380,000 tons/year, the Daily Express said in January. The Prime Minister said in

December that using B10 biodiesel would reduce emissions by 1.6M tons/year and increase demand for palm oil, one of Malaysia's main exports. The Prime Minister added that he would like the country to adopt a B20 blending mandate by 2020, similar to that of Indonesia's. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

#### **COCONUT BIODIESEL INCREASE SUGGESTED BY LAWMAKER IN PHILIPPINES**

In a recent press release chairman of the senate committees on energy, and economic affairs in the Philippines, Senator Win Gatchalian, is urging the Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Biofuels Board (NBB) to study the proposal of the Department of Agriculture to increase coconut content in biodiesel. The increase would be from 2% to 5%.

It was after Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol announced that he would be lobbying for the increase of biofuel content in diesel from B2 to B5 in order to absorb oversupply in the copra industry that Gatchalian decided to push his plan.

Gatchalian explains that B2 biodiesel is a blend of 2% agricultural products and 98% clean diesel and that B5 is a blend of 5% agricultural products and 95% clean diesel.

Senator Win Gatchalian highlights that it is 'paramount' for the NBB to study whether an increase to 5% blend is warranted and whether local production of feedstocks is sufficient to meet present and future demand.

"The DOE and NBB should weigh the impact of increasing the biofuel content from B2 to B5, especially with the recent implementation of the new round of increases in the excise tax on fuel in January," Gatchalian said.

"After all, the law requires the recommendation of the NBB before the DOE decides to increase the blend."

The study that Gatchalian's office conducted estimated that increasing the biofuel content in diesel from B2 to B5 may result in a 7.5% increase, equivalent to ₱2.86, in the pump price of biodiesel.

Gatchalian states that during the last Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Biofuels hearing, there had been concerns of lack of feedstock, which he said prevented the DOE from mandating the increase from the current two percent blend.

Data from the DOE shows that the annual capacity for biodiesel in 2017 was 574.9 million litres but that production was only at 39% of capacity.

Gatchalian concludes, "I hope that we can agree on action steps in order to move the industry forward and attain the goal of energy security and environmental sustainability as envisioned by the authors of the Biofuels Act." (<https://biofuels-news.com>)

#### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION APPROVES BIODIESEL FROM U.S. SOYA**

The European Commission has decided to allow for the production of biodiesel using U.S. soybeans. The change is expected to boost stability for the largest soybean producing U.S. states, such as Iowa. The EU has been seeking to improve its environmental footprint, and the decision by the Commission was made based on U.S. production meeting European sustainability standards.

The U.S. soybean industry operates under a sustainability protocol called the soybean sustainability assurance protocol, which means that the U.S. production system is based on sustainability and conservation laws that point to best management practices and oversight. Previously, soybean oil from U.S. soybeans was banned from being used as fuel and was shipped back to U.S. ports. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

#### **BIODIESEL TO POWER ED SHEERAN AND PAUL McCARTNEY CONCERTS IN ARGENTINA**

Local press in Argentina reports that Paul McCartney and Ed Sheeran have demanded their upcoming concerts be powered by biodiesel, according to Oils &

Fats International on February 14. The biodiesel will be produced from UCO (used cooking oil) and the government of Santa Fe has even set up a contest to encourage people to donate their used cooking oil in exchange for tickets to the concerts to be held later in February and March. Pink Floyd singer Roger Waters' concert in November at La Plata city's Estadio Único stadium was the first concert to be powered by biodiesel in the country, the report said. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

#### **FINNISH TRANSPORTATION FUEL TO BE 30% BIOFUEL BY 2030**

The Parliament of Finland voted on February 6 in favour of a law requiring transportation fuel to be comprised of 30% biofuel by 2030, with advanced biofuels accounting for 10% of transportation fuel by the same year. The requirements would start to be ramped up in 2021. Additionally, the new law would also require biofuel to be blended into light fuel oil for heating, machinery and fixed engines, starting in 2021 and increasing through 2028, when it would reach 10%. Finnish renewables company Neste and paper mill company UPM have spoken out in support of the biofuel mandates. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

#### **ENI AND RENOILS TO PROMOTE UTILIZATION OF USED COOKING OILS**

Italian oil and gas firm Eni and the national waste vegetable oil and animal fats consortium, RenOils, are collaborating to promote the recovery of used vegetable oils, the two institutions announced in a press release last month. Eni currently makes use of about 50% of the used cooking oil (UCO) available in Italy and will extend its capacity to produce biofuel from this waste at its bio-refinery in Porto Marghera, Venice, as well as in Gela in the future.

Used oils from households were mostly discarded down drains, clogging the drainage system and increasing maintenance costs. RenOils was set up in

2016 to ensure the correct management for the collection, transport, storage, processing and reuse of vegetable oils and animal fats. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

## OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

### INDONESIA TO HIRE EUROPEAN LAW FIRMS FOR EU PALM OIL TALKS

Coordinating Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Minister Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan has said the government plans to hire foreign law firms to negotiate with the European Union on its restrictive policies on palm oil, The Jakarta Post reported on February 28. He said the government would determine key performance indicators for the law firms, which will be formed into a team before March 8.

Luhut said that the government would employ offensive diplomacy against the EU's "discriminatory policies", underlining that the two sides needed to be on an equal footing. He added that the palm oil sector had helped the country achieve its Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets, as millions of oil palm smallholders relied on the commodity to earn an income. Indonesia is the largest palm oil producer in the world, and palm oil is the country's largest export commodity in terms of volume. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

### TURKEY, PAKISTAN, IRAN ARE POTENTIALLY HUGE MARKETS FOR MALAYSIAN PALM OIL

Malaysia's palm oil export market has huge potential to be expanded to Turkey, Pakistan and Iran due to the high utilisation of the commodity in these countries, Deputy Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Shamsul Iskandar Mohd Akin said at a recent palm oil, economic, promotion and investment mission to the three countries. It was found that Karachi (Pakistan) used more than one million tons of palm oil annually, while Istanbul (Turkey) used 700,000 tons and Tehran (Iran) used 600,000 tons per annum. He said the efforts

to explore new markets were a way to expand the palm oil market to new territories following the proposed ban by the European Union (EU).

Shamsul Iskandar said the Ministry was also intensifying the "Love MY Palm Oil" campaign which was launched in January to maximise the use of the oil in Malaysia since the domestic consumption is only at 70 per cent currently. "The government will be increasing its efforts and will conduct more programs to increase the people's awareness and understanding to reach the 100 per cent palm oil usage target." (*UCAP Bulletin*)

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RESOLUTION SEEKS TO BAN PALM OIL IMPORTS

Minority Leader Danilo E. Suarez of the 3<sup>rd</sup> district of Quezon filed House Resolution No. 2519, which urged the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and other agencies to halt palm oil imports to support the coconut industry. Quezon is a leading producer of coconut in the country. "I'm alarmed by the price of copra now. It's too low. I'm asking the Department of Trade and Industry to stop the importation of palm oil," Representative Suarez said in a briefing last week. "Under our ASEAN tariff agreement, palm oil is charged zero tariffs. Unfortunately palm oil is cheaper than coconut oil," he said.

The resolution follows a finding by the Department of Agriculture that palm oil imports are hurting the price of copra. Copra currently trades for about P15 per kilo on average, well below the P30-40 average price from previous years. "The surge of palm oil imports causes a shift in demand from coconut oil to palm oil due to the cheaper price of the latter. This, in turn, injures the coconut industry (due to) the continuous decline of copra farmgate prices," according to the resolution. "This economic situation affects the livelihood of the country's coconut farmers which are mostly living in poverty." The Minority

Leader said the DTI should consider increasing copra prices to P25. (UCAP Bulletin)

### **PHILIPPINES BANS PALM OIL FROM INDONESIA, MALAYSIA**

The Philippines' Department of Agriculture on Friday sought a temporary ban on palm oil imports from Indonesia and Malaysia, saying local coconut and oil palm farmers are hurting from "extremely low" prices due to "dumping" of the commodity by the two biggest producers.

Palm oil imports from Indonesia and Malaysia have increased by 900% over the last three years, Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Pinol said in a Facebook post.

The Department of Agriculture also asked the Department of Energy and the National Bio-Fuels Board to raise the coconut oil component of biodiesel to 5% from 2%.

Pinol did not specify any timeframe for the ban.

(<https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com>)

### **EU IMPORT OF VEGETABLE OILS DOWN IN 2018**

Data from Oil World show the EU imported 12.113 million MT of vegetable oils and fats in calendar year 2018, slightly down by 2.7% from same period year-ago at 12.450 million MT. Palm oil was the leading import accounting for nearly two-thirds (63.2%) at 7.658 million MT (7.797 million MT year-earlier), followed by sunflower oil with share at 13.2% at 1,597 MT (1.972 million MT). Completing the top five imports were palm kernel oil at 711,000 MT (774,000 MT), coconut oil at 610,000 MT (510,000 MT) and soybean oil at 328,000 MT (277,000 MT) with respective market share at 5.9%, 5.0%, and 2.7%.

Other vegetable oils/fats imported during the year were, in 1,000 MT: rapeseed oil 266 (180), fish oil 222 (187), olive oil 210 (123), castor oil 189 (178), tallow & grease 144 (155) and Others oils/fats 178 (297). Together they comprised 10% of total imports. (UCAP Bulletin)

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

#### **HOW TO GET RID OF DANDRUFF WITH COCONUT OIL**

Dandruff is excessive shedding of dead skin from your scalp. It's usually caused by an extremely oily, dry, or infected scalp. There is no permanent cure for the condition, but there are ways to control and minimize the problem. One of them by using coconut oil.

Below are several instructions to treat dandruff naturally using coconut oil.

##### **1. Apply it directly on to your scalp**

First, rinse your hair thoroughly, after it dry apply the coconut oil on to your scalp, massage it all over your head for 3-5 minutes. Let it sit for 5 to 10 minutes. Wash it with lukewarm water. And let it dry. Do this treatment at least once a week.

##### **2. Use it as a hair mask**

Make a solution of the 2 tbs coconut oil with 2 tbs of olive oil, honey, and yogurt. Apply it on your scalp, massage for 5-10 minutes, and let it sit for 45-60 minutes. Then rinse it with lukewarm water.

Apply 1 tbs of coconut oil to your hair once it dry. Apply this method at least once in a week in order to get a good result.

##### **3. Mix it on to your shampoo or conditioner**

To apply this method you just need to add several drop of coconut oil in to your shampoo or conditioner or any other product that you used for your hair. Apply it how you usually apply your hair products.

Coconut oil could penetrates easily into the hair shafts and scalp and gives a deep moisturizing, hydrating, and conditioning effect and get rid of dandruff since its enriched with essential vitamins E and K, proteins, lauric acid, capric acid, etc. (<https://www.timesindonesia.co.id>)

## 5 REASONS WHY EVERY MAN SHOULD GET A HEAD MASSAGE WITH COCONUT OIL ONCE A WEEK WITHOUT FAIL

Indian men face a lot of issues with their hair, because of the climactic inconsistency and pollution all around. However, more often than not, they don't pay heed to the urgency of the situation before it's too late, and as a result, end up with severe issues such as chronic hair fall, dandruff, itchy scalp, weak hair strands etc.

There, however, exists an easy way out that can take care of your hair and scalp health, without much effort. The magic ingredient? Coconut oil.

Coconut oil is a super underrated product that can transform your hair and scalp magically. Remember the good old champi from your childhood that your mother always insisted on doing every Sunday? There are several reasons behind it, and here are 5 of them.

1. Coconut oil is packed with Vitamins and micro-nutrients that can do wonders for your hair. You know how a good diet full of nutritious food items is good for your body? It works the same way with coconut oil for your hair. It is the best 'hair food'.
2. Coconut oil helps your hair to grow faster and thicker. The essential fatty acids and vitamins found in coconut oil help to remove sebum around hair roots, and subsequently help in faster, healthy hair growth.
3. Coconut oil can heal your scalp when you are suffering from dandruff. Apply warm coconut oil slowly on your scalp using your fingertips, and leave it on overnight. You should ideally wrap your head with a towel, or an old T-shirt. In the morning, wash it off with some Epsom salt solution to get rid of the excess skin bits.
4. Coconut oil, perhaps, is the best natural conditioner. If you want to 'deep condition' your hair, oil your hair with coconut oil, leave it on overnight, and wash it off with a mild shampoo the next day.

5. A head massage with coconut oil every week increases blood circulation and gets rid of headaches because of stress. Try it, and you will see the difference soon.

(<https://www.mensxp.com>)

## COCONUT RECIPE

### *"Thai Salmon Head Soup"*

#### Ingredients:

- 1 salmon head and collars (you can also use trim and belly pieces)
- 3 cup chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons chiled-tamarind paste (nam phrik pao)
- 2 ½ tablespoon golden brown sugar
- 2 Kaffir lime leaves
- 1 large stalk lemongrass, trimmed and sliced into 1-inch pieces
- One 2-inch piece of galangal, sliced lengthwise
- One 2-inch piece of ginger, sliced lengthwise
- Two 14-ounce cans unsweetened coconut milk
- Cilantro sprigs for garnish

#### Directions:

1. Split and rinse the salmon head. Remove and reserve the collars and any trim pieces you want to use.
2. In a large stock pot, bring the chicken broth to a simmer. Add the chile-tamarind paste, brown sugar, lime leaves, lemongrass pieces, galangal and ginger. Stir to incorporate the paste and dissolve the sugar. Next, add the salmon collars, trim pieces and coconut milk. Add the split chiles and mushrooms. Bring to a simmer, then cook for 5 minutes.
3. Stir in the fish sauce and fresh lime juice. Cook for another minute, and then ladle the soup into individual serving bowls, garnishing with cilantro and slice chiles. Enjoy! Serves 6. (<https://www.verlasso.com>)

## STATISTICS

**Table 1**  
**SRI LANKA: Exports of Mattress, Bristle and Twisted Fibers, 2016 - 2018**  
**(In MT)**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Mattress Fiber</b>			<b>Bristle Fiber</b>			<b>Twisted Fiber</b>		
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
January	1,812	1,128	2,046	706	2,116	183	5,203	4,853	3,447
February	1,418	1,639	2,094	696	1,918	152	5,108	4,060	3,695
March	1,088	1,559	2,946	983	3,069	218	7,471	6,651	4,725
April	1,714	1,928	1,840	720	1,712	182	4,681	4,159	3,293
May	1,039	1,920	1,575	953	1,786	133	3,581	4,192	3,133
June	1,037	1,195	1,976	904	2,010	75	4,445	4,732	2,368
July	1,759	1,244	2,668	765	2,419	211	4,712	5,835	4,887
August	1,784	1,483	3,544	773	2,154	186	4,716	5,643	3,779
September	2,339	1,373	4,196	1,436	2,030	150	6,815	4,848	3,442
October	2,013	1,281	3,262	1,832	2,169	206	5,512	3,466	2,619
November	1,228	1,049	1,999	2,148	1,511	86	3,425	3,446	2,526
December	1,416	1,037		3,336	1,174		5,029	2,048	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,647</b>	<b>16,836</b>	<b>28,146</b>	<b>15,525</b>	<b>24,068</b>	<b>1,782</b>	<b>60,698</b>	<b>53,933</b>	<b>37,914</b>

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

**Table 2**  
**SRI LANKA: Monthly Export Prices of Mattress, Bristle and Twisted Fibers, 2016 - 2018 (US\$/MT, FOB Colombo)**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Mattress Fiber</b>			<b>Bristle Fiber</b>			<b>Twisted Fiber</b>		
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
January	352	335	337	452	250	1,748	426	263	316
February	391	320	316	473	296	1,626	346	264	336
March	417	339	319	404	283	1,723	351	277	281
April	416	301	314	345	319	1,834	352	315	365
May	423	341	341	436	299	1,686	331	296	396
June	469	345	354	345	304	2,290	353	281	562
July	322	321	319	420	290	1,588	315	293	349
August	331	336	309	386	330	1,677	321	297	444
September	272	389	290	340	323	1,577	292	306	361
October	286	413	275	269	517	1,845	303	330	378
November	300	421	295	314	414	1,238	294	337	359
December	299	399		255	458		278	369	
<b>Average</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>1,712</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>377</b>

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

**Table 3**  
**SRI LANKA: Exports of Yarn, Twine and Pith, 2016 - 2018**  
**(In MT)**

Month	Coir Yarn			Coir Twine			Fiber Pith		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
January	127	178	148	733	653	845	14,558	15,665	16,079
February	101	109	120	633	830	796	17,902	17,718	16,910
March	121	195	126	422	650	614	20,515	19,861	19,623
April	115	110	78	405	612	441	16,301	14,802	13,248
May	63	147	58	427	680	534	15,887	16,247	16,843
June	45	176	59	684	754	680	13,203	17,888	13,848
July	92	97	189	514	757	898	15,457	18,200	15,468
August	161	162	180	699	752	717	15,107	18,801	17,273
September	113	41	118	436	741	672	16,532	17,986	16,091
October	143	201	108	1,010	717	775	14,373	17,162	4,686
November	32	111	101	596	623	849	12,958	14,539	2,515
December	56	202		790	711		14,027	13,851	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,169</b>	<b>1,729</b>	<b>1,285</b>	<b>7,349</b>	<b>8,480</b>	<b>7,821</b>	<b>186,820</b>	<b>202,720</b>	<b>152,585</b>

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka

**Table 4**  
**SRI LANKA: Monthly Export Prices of Yarn, Twine and Pith, 2016 - 2018**  
**(In US\$/MT, FOB Colombo)**

Month	Coir Yarn			Coir Twine			Fiber Pith		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
January	827	718	664	1,291	730	1,145	290	336	343
February	800	800	892	1,207	1,072	1,072	335	337	585
March	750	676	828	1,233	753	961	383	333	352
April	754	591	1,085	684	1,004	1,081	339	342	370
May	1,105	566	1,245	1,135	997	1,255	339	376	351
June	967	541	855	1,093	985	984	377	372	379
July	844	687	880	1,206	994	1,128	352	357	388
August	716	620	725	1,073	1,059	1,016	354	343	388
September	914	846	672	1,045	872	1,144	339	349	394
October	816	594	981	1,028	1,103	1,153	346	347	312
November	973	673	706	952	981	1,034	358	352	243
December	912	644		1,102	1,242		336	342	
<b>Average</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>1,087</b>	<b>983</b>	<b>1,089</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>373</b>

Source: Coconut Development Authority, Sri Lanka