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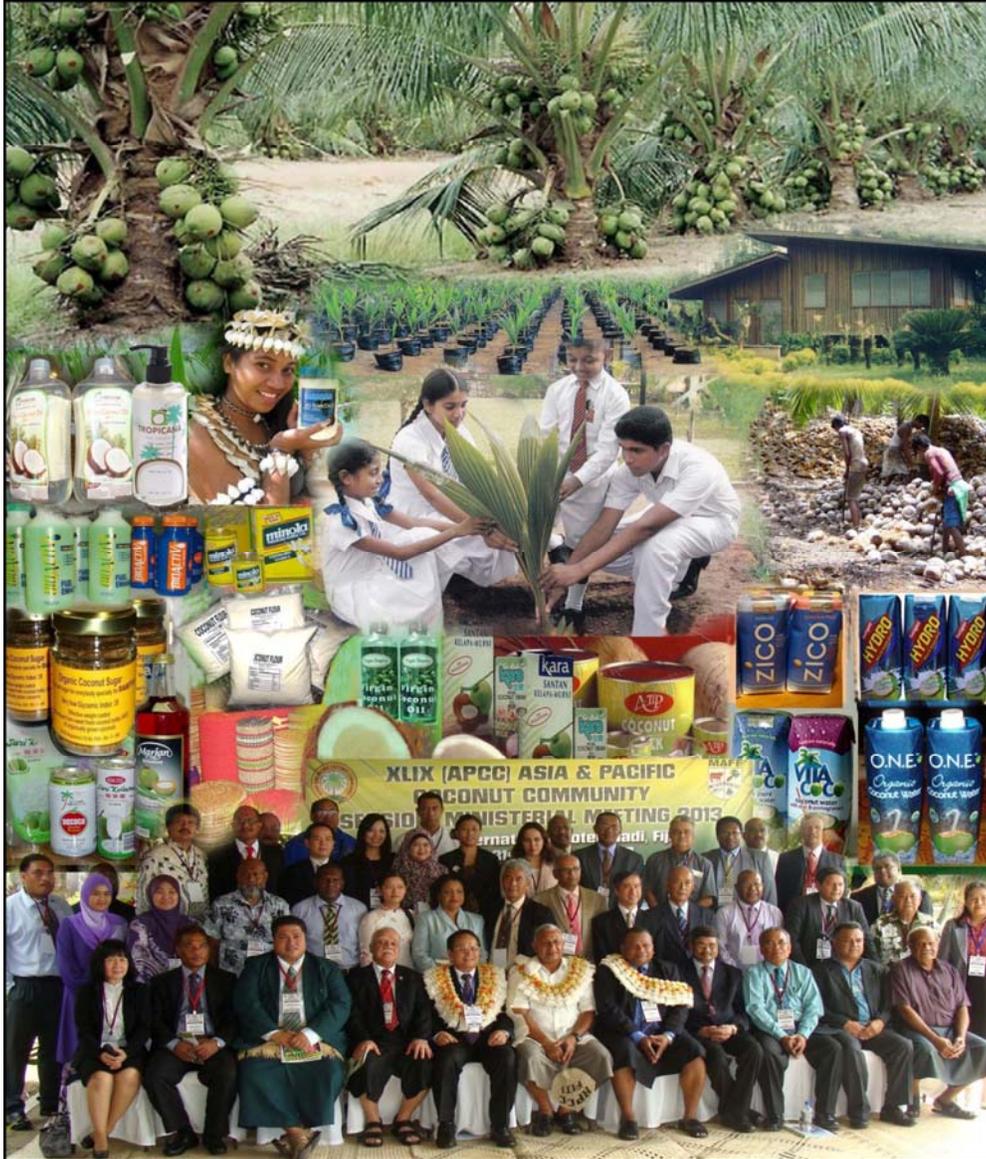
The Cocommunity

Monthly Newsletter of the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC)

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

Established in 1969, under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP), the APCC is an independent regional intergovernmental organization which consists of fifteen member countries and accounts for 85-90% of the world production of coconut. The APCC member countries are: the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Kiribati, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vanuatu, and Vietnam.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPEAKS

“Goodbye and Warm Welcome to the In-Coming APCC Executive Director”



This will be my final editorial article in this monthly newsletter as I am about to complete my term as APCC Executive Director on the 23rd of January 2014.

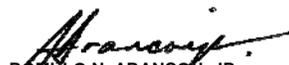
May I therefore bid goodbye to all stakeholders of the coconut sector in the Asia-Pacific region and all the world, and express my profound gratitude for all the support, encouragement and advice that enabled me to discharge my duties with vigor, greater determination and hopefully with a difference and meaningful impact especially to the millions of coconut smallholders and their families in the region. I am particularly grateful to all Ministers of Agriculture/Coconut Development, Ministers of Trade and Commerce and all the National Liaison Officers of the APCC in the member countries for their unwavering support.

APCC's international partners have also helped me and the Secretariat to pursue and implement relevant and much needed programs for the coconut sector in areas such as policy advocacy, strategic planning for coconut sector development, accelerated and farmer-participatory coconut replanting and rehabilitation programs, integrated coconut pest and disease management, promotion of emerging value-added coconut products in the export market, organic certification procedures, quality standards of coconut products and others. Mechanisms and various modalities for effective sharing and transfer of technologies have been vigorously pursued through APCC's COCOTECH or international coconut technology meetings/conferences, roundtable discussions, exchange of scientists, coconut study-tour programs, technical and hands-on specialized training programs and other international and national coconut forums and seminars. Effective networking and collaboration with coconut development partners throughout the world have been operationalized.

The latest major collaborative effort was the conduct of the FAO High Level Expert Consultation for Coconut Sector Development in the Asia-Pacific Region held in Bangkok, Thailand where eight Agriculture Ministers and a number of high level coconut technical officers, scientists and experts shared and exchanged their ideas in formulating a regional strategy for coconut sector development geared towards enhancing livelihood security, environmental protection and economic growth in Asia and the Pacific. This forum was funded by the FAO and facilitated by the APCC Executive Director together with the FAO-Senior Plant Production Officer with full support of the Assistant Director General of FAO-RAP.

With the recommendations spelled out in the Regional Strategy, it is hoped that the governments of coconut growing countries in Asia and the Pacific together with international coconut development partners, the FAO, and the APCC shall be able pursue pro-active policies and priority programs for coconut development.

As I welcome the in-coming Executive Director, I trust that with his wealth of experience and expertise as Chairman of PNG's Kokonas Industri Koporesen and other coconut related endeavors, he can continue to pursue the vision, mission of the APCC Secretariat as well as our shared advocacies. I welcome him with all the best wishes and assure him of my support. I am confident that with God's grace and the strong support of the member countries and all our coconut development partners, he will succeed.


ROMULO N. ARANCON, JR.

PREVAILING MARKET PRICES OF SELECTED COCONUT PRODUCTS AND OILS

Price of DC, Copra and CNO and other Coconut Products Increased in Coconut Producing Countries.

COPRA: The price of copra in Indonesia (Surabaya) increased to US\$686 in December 2013. This is higher than last month's price of US\$585/MT and also higher than the 2013 monthly average price of US\$526. When compared to last year's data for the same month, the price is US\$244 higher.

In the domestic market of the Philippines (Manila), the average copra price was at US\$778/MT. The price increased by 25.7% over the price in November 2013 and about 73.3% higher when compared to the price of US\$449/MT in November 2012. In the Philippines, out of the eight copra market centers, the highest price at US\$824/MT was recorded in Quezon, and the lowest price at US\$634/MT was in N. Mindanao.

COCONUT OIL: The average price of coconut oil in Europe (C.I.F. Rotterdam) for the month of December 2013 increased by US\$256 to US\$1,265/MT from US\$1,009/MT in November 2013. This price is higher by 42.1% when compared with the price in December 2012. This is also higher than the average monthly price of 2013 which is US\$912 per MT.

The average local price of coconut oil in the Philippines in December 2013 was US\$1,163/MT. This was US\$213 higher than the price in November 2013, and it was US\$307 higher if compared to the average price in 2013 at US\$856.

The average domestic price of coconut oil in Indonesia in December 2013 increased US\$13 compare to the previous month from US\$920/MT to US\$933/MT. December 2013 price was 31.6% higher than average price

of the same month of 2012 which was US\$709/MT.

COPRA MEAL: The average domestic price of the commodity in the Philippines at selling points was quoted at US\$237/MT. The price was US\$5 higher than price of the previous month.

DESICCATED COCONUT: The average price of desiccated coconut (DC) FOB Manila, Philippines in December 2013 was US\$1,883/MT. This price was US\$23 lower than that of the previous month's price and also US\$145 lower than the price of the same month last year. In Sri Lanka, the domestic price of desiccated coconut in December 2013 was US\$2,271/MT or US\$203 higher than the price in November 2013. Meanwhile, the price of DC in the domestic market in the Philippines was US\$1,869/MT, which was US\$3 lower than the previous month's price at US\$1,872/MT and US\$155 lower than the price in the same month last year. Indonesian price was US\$2,222/MT, increased by US\$280 from last month's, and increased by US\$752 from last year's price.

COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL: In the Philippines, the average price of coconut shell charcoal was not quoted for December 2013. Meanwhile, in Sri Lanka, the average price of the commodity in December 2013 was US\$388/MT. The average price of charcoal in Indonesia for December 2013 was US\$338/MT, which was US\$18 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\$210/MT for mixed fiber and US\$477 - 630 for bristle. The Indonesian price for mattress (mixed) fiber was US\$341/MT in December 2013.

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

Products/Country	2013 Dec.	2013 Nov.	2012 Dec. (Annual Ave.)	2013
Fresh Coconut				
Philippines (Dom. Husked)	197	161	124	139
Copra				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Europe)	782	624	515	586
Philippines (Dom. Manila)	778	619	449	533
Indonesia (Dom. Java)	686	585	442	526
India (Dom. Kerala)	1,135	1,126	811	899
Coconut Oil				
Philippines (CIF Rott.)	1,265	1,009	890	912
Philippines (Domestic)	1,163	950	886	856
Indonesia (Domestic)	933	920	709	860
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	2,179	2,172	2,008	1,945
India (Domestic), Kerala	1,656	1,640	1,060	1,332
Desiccated Coconut				
Philippines FOB (US), Sellers	1,883	1,906	2,028	1,753
Philippines (Domestic)	1,869	1,872	2,024	1,733
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	2,271	2,068	1,457	1,834
Indonesia (Domestic)	2,222	1,942	1,470	1,628
Copra Meal Exp. Pel.				
Philippines/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	237	232	n.q.	217
Philippines (Domestic)	231	225	148	191
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	412	369	244	350
Indonesia (Domestic)	239	232	233	207
Coconut Shell Charcoal				
Philippines (Domestic), Visayas, Buyer	n.q.	n.q.	384	349
Sri Lanka (Domestic)	388	387	343	355
Indonesia (Domestic) Manado, Buyer	338	356	375	362
Coir Fibre				
Sri Lanka (Mattress/Short fibre)	210	191	197	155
Sri Lanka (Bristle 1 tie)	477	464	473	459
Sri Lanka (Bristle 2 tie)	630	591	642	630
India (Geo Textile)	n.q.	n.q.	1,009	1,098
Indonesia (Mixed Raw fibre)	341	323	331	300
Other Oils				
Palm Kernel Oil Malaysia/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	1,150	1,060	725	884
Palm Oil, Malaysia/Indonesia (CIF Rott.)	911	920	744	848
Soybean Oil, (Europe FOB Ex mill)	995	1,191	1,078	1,068
Palm Kernel Oil, RBD (CIF NY)	902	886	748	849

Rate of Exchange: December 31, 2013:

1US\$=P43.91 or Indo.=Rp12,185 or India=Rs61.87 or SL=Rs130.79
Euro=US\$1.3783 n.q.: not quoted

MARKET ANALYSIS OF COCONUT OIL

The price of coconut oil [CNO], CIF Rotterdam started to recover in June 2013 after continuous decrease since the highest price at US\$2,117/ton in May 2011. The lowest price recorded was in April 2012 which was the lowest within the last three years. From June 2013, the price began to increase slowly to US\$912/ton then to US\$926/ton in September 2013 and finally reached US\$1,128/ton in December 2013. Based on the trend and the rate of the current price increase, it is predicted that the CNO market will be bullish in the first half of 2014. The CNO price is estimated to be at the range of US\$1,250/ton to US\$1,560/ton.

The major reasons for the predicted improved price of CNO are among others, the shortage of coconut supply as an effect of Haiyan Typhoon in the Philippines in early November last year. The strongest typhoon ever recorded with the speed of more than 300 kms per hour damaged approximately 15 million coconut trees in various provinces in the country. A 5-6% reduction of the CNO production of the Philippines as world main CNO producer and exporter is estimated. The Philippines shares 45% of the total world CNO market.

The second reason is the significant increase in the global price of other coconut products such as coconut milk and desiccated coconut (DC). The price of DC for example has been increasing by 45% within the last 5 months. Such increase will encourage DC producers to boost its production and will, on the other hand, decrease raw material supply for CNO. Some coconut product factories in several countries such as Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam had to import fresh mature

coconuts for these products mainly from Indonesia.

Other causes that will improve CNO price is the government plan of some CNO producing countries especially the Philippines to increase the biodiesel blend from the current 2.5% to double 5%. Such increase is the result of the countries' decision to reduce dependency and import volume of fossil fuel. In the Philippines, in 2012 about 140-150 thousand tons of CNO were used for the production of biodiesel and it will increase to approximately 350 thousand tons, when the mandate comes to full implementation. Such change will reduce the Philippines export of CNO hence CNO supply in the global market.

The price of Palm Kernel Oil [PKO], which has the strongest correlation to CNO price than other vegetable oils, experienced the same trend. The price of PKO reached the highest in February 2011 but decreased gradually to US\$725/MT in December 2012, the lowest within the last three years. From January to February 2013 the price of PKO begun to recover with an increased price of 9% to US\$850/MT. Since then, the price of PKO had gradually increased until August 2013. Significant increase was shown in the period between September 2013 to December 2013 which was from US\$914/ton to US\$1,150/ton or at a rate of 8.6% per month.

Oil World has estimated that the production of CNO for the period of September – October of 2013 would be 3.24 million tons which is a decrease of 5.3% from the same period of last year which was recorded at 3.42 million tons. The production was 3.85% higher than that of 2011 and 4.85% higher than the year 2010 which was

noted at 3.09 million tons. The production of PKO for the same period of 2013 was estimated to increase to 6.41 million tons from 6.16 million tons last year or up by 4.06% [250,000 tons].

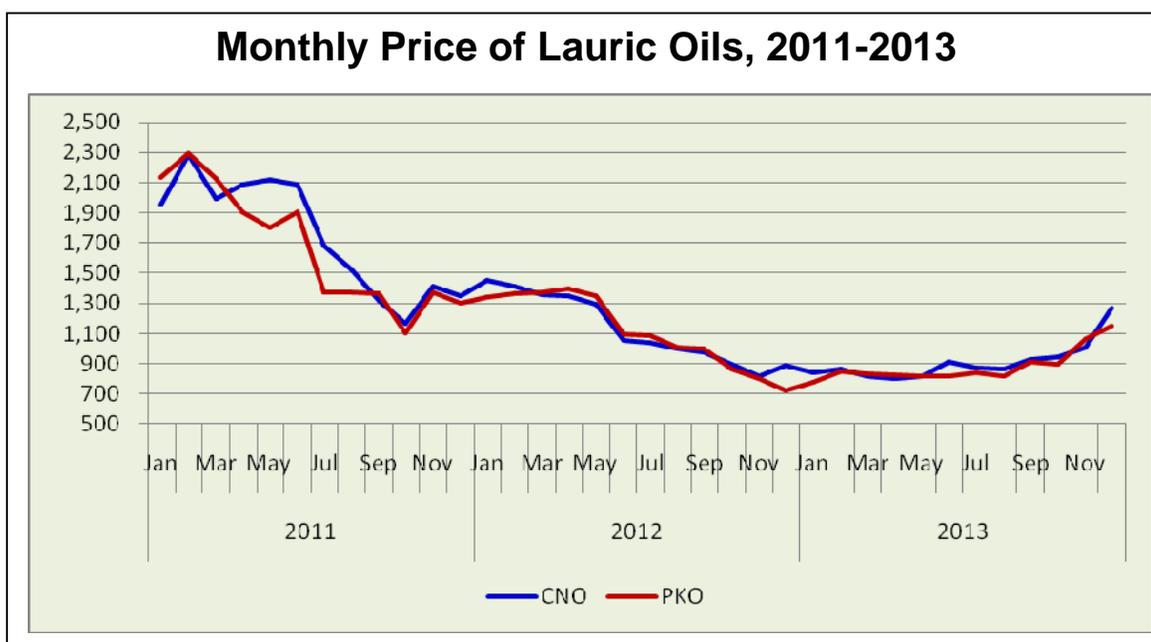
The total production of lauric oils [CNO and PKO] for the same period was estimated at 9.65 million tons which was a slight increase from the same period of the previous year. Consistent with the finding, Oil World estimated that world CNO export for the period of September – October 2013 would decrease 2.35%. This is expected to continue until the first half of 2014 especially when the mandate of increasing the admixture of biodiesel took place sometime in October-December 2013.

In relation to the decrease of CNO supply, the Oil World has forecasted that the

world production of copra will decrease by 140,000 tons, estimated at 5.37 million tons in 2013 down to 5.23 million tons in 2014. The lower production is due to climate-weather problems and senility of palms in many coconut producing countries.

The Philippines CNO production is estimated to decrease by 5% from 1.511 million tons to 1.435 million tons. Indonesia is also predicted to experience a slight decrease in production by 1.5-1.8% in 2014.

EU, USA and two Asian countries [China and Malaysia] according to Oil World remain the main importing countries of CNO. EU-27 is forecasted to import 735,000 tons of CNO in 2013 followed by USA at 560,000 tons, China 200,000 tons and Malaysia 190,000 tons.



COMMUNITY NEWS

FSM HOSTS THE 50TH APCC SESSION/ MINISTERIAL MEETING

The 50th APCC Session/Ministerial Meeting will be held on 11 - 14 February 2013 in Pohnpei, in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). The venue of the meeting will be at FSM – China Friendship Government Center, Pohnpei, the Federated States of Micronesia.

The Government of FSM, through the Department of Resources and Development and the FSM Coconut Development Authority who holds the Chairmanship of the APCC for CY 2013 will provide the host facilities for the meeting. Mr. Marion Henry, Secretary of the Department of Resources and Development will preside the Session with the assistance of the APCC Executive Director.

Plenipotentiary delegates and observers from UN related agencies, and other partner/international donor organizations are expected to attend the APCC Session/Ministerial Meeting. Policy matters, coconut development programs, administrative concerns, and projects/plans of the Community will be discussed in the meeting. A field trip to some coconut related projects will also be conducted on the third day of the meeting (14 February 2014). Only government delegates and invitees will participate in the APCC Session/Ministerial Meeting.

NEW APCC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ASSUME OFFICE

Mr. Uron Neil Salum from Papua New Guinea will assume his duties as the new Executive Director at the APCC Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia on 22nd of January 2014. He replaces the incumbent APCC Executive Director Mr. Romulo N. Arancon, Jr., who will complete his tenure with the APCC.

Mr. Uron Neil Salum's election as APCC Executive Director was decided by the 49th

APCC Session/ Ministerial Meeting held in Nadi, Fiji on 29 January 2013 for a term of three years subject to extension by decision of the APCC Session. To effect an orderly transition and turn-over of responsibilities and financial accountabilities there will be an overlap of two days between the two Executive Directors.

Mr. Uron Neil Salum had various working experiences such as Director of PNG Copra Making Board, Deputy Chairman of PNG Coconut Commodities Ltd., Board Director of PNG Cacao and Coconut Research Institute, Director of PNG Cacao Coconut Extension Agency, Professional and Technical Advisor of Madang Provincial Government, and Chairman of PNG's Kokonast Industri Koporesen (KIK).

The APCC Secretariat warmly welcomes the incoming APCC Executive Director while wishing the outgoing Executive Director all the best in his professional and personal life in the years ahead.

CHINESE ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF COCONUT INDUSTRY IN SRI LANKA

A discussion between HE Wu Jinhao, the Ambassador for China in Sri Lanka and Hon. A.P. Jagath Pushpakumara, Minister of Coconut Development and Janatha Estate Development took place at the Ministry of Coconut Development.

The discussion covered the steps to be taken to improve trading activities pertaining to coconut production sector while narrowing the trading gap between the two countries.

HE the Ambassador was made aware of the bottle-necks encountered by the coconut based exporters in the process of exporting their coconut based products to China. It was proposed to him that tax exemptions granted to Asian countries be extended to Sri Lankan exporters as well.

Mr. Jinhao stated that there is a big demand in Chinese market specially for coconut coir and fiber based products and activated carbon.

Agreement was reached to take up this proposal at the Joint Commission Meeting to be held in January 2014 and a further discussion between the Chinese Trade Counselor and the Ministry officials is proposed to be held soon.

A Technology Transfer Programme was also discussed with the objective of arranging an exposure visit to China for coconut growers representing Kapruka Societies to acquire technological knowledge in this field.

The main objective of this discussion was to further strengthen the relationship existing with the Government of China. (<http://www.cdjedmin.gov.lk>)

TONGAN AGRI MINISTER PROMOTES COCONUT AS A HEALTHY DRINK

At the High Level Expert Consultation on Coconut Sector Development in Asia and the Pacific Region Meeting last November 2013 in Bangkok, Hon. Sangster Saulala, Minister of Agriculture, Food, Forest and Fisheries, Kingdom of Tonga mentioned happily that he personally drink coconut to promote coconut as a "Tree of Life".

The Minister recalled that after he went back home from the last 49th APCC Session held in Fiji last January 2013, the meeting widened his understanding and appreciation on the value of coconut to the Tongan people in the face of increasing economic, social and ecological challenges. When he returned home, he put priority on promoting coconuts and enhancing community awareness. To support his promotional activities, radio and television programs, as well as policy and technical publications including wider community consultations were conducted.

The Tongan Agriculture Minister said "I went to the TV, I went to the media, and I talked about coconut, I told them coconut is coming back. We have a new strategy now "coconut is a healthy drink". In order to lead by example, I drink coconut in the morning, I eat/drink coconut at lunch, and I drink coconut in the evening, and I drink coconut every day. I can't tell Tongan people on TV this is the tree of life, if I still drink carbonated drink".

He proudly stated that Tonga endeavors to improve its coconut resource-base by replacing senile palms with new coconut seedlings, crop improvement through proper research and extension services; updating legislations and policies conducive to crop and product development; developing skills and capacities for coconut product development; improving coconut-base farming systems approach.

Tonga is one of the APCC member countries. In the Kingdom of Tonga, coconut is included in the first National Agriculture Sector Plan (NASP). The NASP aims to help guide the sector in identifying its vision and priorities for maximizing the contribution of agriculture (coconuts included) and livestock to Tonga's economic growth and food security. The targets are (1) to access more export markets for local produce/products both regional & international, (2) to increase the contribution of agriculture sector to GDP to be more than 50%, (3) to increase export earnings and to reduce trade deficit thus impact on foreign reserves and exchange rates, and (4) to ensure that healthy & fresh foods are available all year round at affordable price.

LETHAL PLANT DISEASE COULD THREATEN FOOD SUPPLIES IN PNG

The Governor of Madang Province in Papua New Guinea says a lethal plant disease could be threatening the food supplies on Long Island.

The remote island is already experiencing a drought that has affected about 5,000 people who have been running desperately low on food and drinking water, leading to several deaths.

Governor Jim Kas believes that the Bogia coconut syndrome is killing the island's major food supplies. He told Pacific Beat that his government will provide financial assistance to the area and hopes the national government will also help.

"My government has made a decision to supporting the islanders with 300,000 kina and we are expecting some assistance some

financial assistance from the National Emergency and Disaster Office in Port Moresby," Mr. Kas said.

Mr. Kas says the Bogia coconut syndrome is affecting tree crops such as coconut, paw paw trees and bananas.

"I also have evidence on my camera that the syndrome... also affecting watermelon leaves, taro leaves, yam and I think it's a major problem," he said.

The province has also been experiencing more than six months of drought, which is exacerbating the problem.

"I also flew across the lake that is there. I hope in due time, we will address the issue by maybe piping water from the freshwater lake to all the villages on the island," Mr. Kas said.

To help the province, Mr. Kas says his province will also be reintroducing airline charters to provide government services to the people.

While the provincial government is treating the situation as "a special case", he says he is not declaring an emergency yet.

Mr. Kas has also made an appeal to scientists and researchers around the world, inviting them to Madang province to find the source of the issue.

"We need specialists to come and find out what particular pests is affecting because our scientists here... have tried all their best and they have not even established what kind of pest is affecting coconut trees, paw paw trees, bananas and it's now getting down to the root crops," he said.

"If the source of the disease... is not detected, then I feel that it will be a big problem on Long island."
(<http://www.abc.net.au>)

BEN TRE, VIETNAM TO HOST FOURTH COCONUT FESTIVAL

A coconut festival in the land where they are most famous will be held from April 7 to 13 in 2015.

Members of the World Coconut Association as well as 10 provinces of Viet Nam that specialise in coconuts will be in attendance. Farmers and companies involved in the coconut industry will also take part in the event.

The festival will feature a culture tourism week, coconut fashion contest, poem-composing contest, an exhibition of coconut products, a trade fair, flower bike parade, seminars on applying science in the coconut sector and the use of coconuts in healthcare. (<http://vietnamnews.vn>)

PROSPECT OF COCONUT IN VIETNAM

Coconut is a traditional crop, and has contributed to provide additional incomes and livelihood of farmers households, improve human nutrition, and create jobs for rural laborers. It is highly tolerant to salinity intrusion, drought and floods. It can be harvested monthly for multiple uses and can be intercropped with many other crops.

The VN government supports cacao production by intercropping in land coconut farms and the present intercropping are cacao, mangosteen, and citrus. While in the seedbed plantation, there is fish or prawn farming to maximize the utilization of farming area and to earn more income.

It was reported that Coconut festivals in Bentre province in 2010 and 2012 were a successful event for coconut trade promotion. Coconut products (nut, coir, pith, desiccated, charcoal..) have increasing demand in both domestic well as international markets (more than 80 countries). Many enterprises have been established in provinces for processing coconut products (desiccated coconut, activated carbon, coir, candy, cleaning soil, handicraft..) contributing for more product's value added in coconut development. At present, coconut husk was not only processed to fiber, but also used as orchid substrate, paddy seedling substrate, and mushroom substrate.

Nonetheless, coconut development in Vietnam still needs the support from

international cooperation in term of high yielding coconut varieties, advanced technologies, processing facilities, marketing information. This statement was presented by the Director of the Department of Crop Production, Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development Vietnam in the Expert Consultation on Coconut Sector Development in Asia and the Pacific Region 2013.

NZ TO GO COCONUTS OVER SAVAII POPO, SAMOA

Turning ideas into reality is the secret ingredient behind the Savai'i Popo canned coconut cream- the latest export processed by the Ah Liki Investment Group.

The pure coconut oil and organic cream is of the new ambitious export that will debut at Samoa's trade exhibition at the Mangere Arts Center. From Vailima Pure larger, to Taula and Sama beer brands, to processed Samoan cocoa, chocolate, banana and taro chips, handicrafts, jewelries, elei- the Samoa Association of Manufacturers and Exporters are going all out to show New Zealanders what Samoa are – and can – produce.

Investment group Chairman Taimalie Charlie Westerlund saw the opportunity to process Samoa's coconut cream into an potential export after a recent visit to Thailand. He said that he is using Thailand's approach to tap into the "niche market for coconut cream" and "the added value of the final product" has been encouraging. Taimalie since then started research and less than three weeks later, the Savaii Popo export is born. Plans, he revealed, are already in the pipeline to export to Australia and Asia.

The new coconut cream also carries the hope of 50 coconut growers from Lalomalava and Lano in Savaii supplying coconuts. But there are problems, according to Taimalie.

"The export demand is huge but we cannot meet that demand because we don't have enough coconuts. I have relayed the same concerns to the Minister of Agriculture to take advantage of the opportunities available. This is what we've always said in

the past, you keep wanting markets to open up and now they're opened up, are we able to meet the demand? What the markets want, are not grown in huge proportions here." And Agriculture Minister Le Mamea Ropati Mualia agrees.

"Taimalie has a valid argument. Government is pushing people to return to the land because this is the only means of boosting the country's economy. But our efforts often appears to fall on deaf ears. Some farmers obviously prefer a hand out without breaking a sweat to earn it. We have offered a lot of assistance and incentives but some farmers are not taking advantage of these assistances."

Among government's recent range of farming incentives, include a \$12 million Tala grant from the World Bank to boost livestock farming and vegetable industry. There is also the stimulus initiative to revive the cocoa, coffee and coconut industries. Over 400 farmers have registered and are recipients of the government funded assistance. And registration is still open with vawareness programmes to bring in many more farmers to take advantage of these opportunities. Under the Stimulus package, farmers have received monetary bonuses, start-up grants free seedlings to replant, training and knowledge assistance, etc.

The Ministry also provides spots checks and free counseling to assist them. And after two years, the farmers are eligible to a cash bonus of \$500 Tala per acre of land replanted with coconut, cocoa or coffee. The bonus, Le Mamea said is only paid out if the farmer meets all the requirements of the stimulus package.

Aside from the Stimulus Package, the Ministry has also initiated a nationwide coconut tree planting initiatives involving children, schools, women and community groups. For farmers who have not yet registered with the programme, Le Mamea said that they should not expect a hand out. For the current fiscal year, government has approved \$300,000 Tala from the state

budget to as its contribution to the stimulus package. (<http://www.savalinews.com>)

INDIA AGRI MINISTRY COMES UP WITH INSURANCE FOR COCONUT AND PALM CULTIVATION

The government will roll out new national crop insurance programme for the twelfth plan period across India in the ensuing Rabi 2013-14 seasons. They are: Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS), Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS), Pilot modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS), and pilot Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme.

A salient feature of the flagship scheme - Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) is that private insurance sector will have a bigger play in rolling and execution of the insurance schemes along with Agricultural Insurance Company of India.

Besides, a catastrophic fund at the national level will be set up for providing reinsurance cover to the insurance companies implementing the scheme. However this fund, set up with equal contribution from the state and centre, can be used only in the event of failure to procure reinsurance cover at competitive rates and if premium to claims ration exceeds 1:5.

Unlike earlier, all farmers even including sharecroppers, tenant farmers, farmers enrolled in contract farming, group of farmers serviced by fertilizer companies, pesticide firms, crop growers, and self help groups are eligible for insurance cover. There will be three indemnity levels instead of two- 70%, 80% and 90%.

The insurance, compulsory for loanee farmers and optional for others, provide cover for crop sowing and failure and adopt better technology.

It will be available for food crops, oilseeds and annual commercial/ horticultural crops. Loanee farmer is one who has availed loans from banks and financial institutions for seasonal agricultural operations.

The weather based crop insurance Scheme (WBCIS), another component of the same scheme aims to help farmers against adverse weather parameters. It is applicable to major cereals like millets, pulses, oilseeds and commercial / horticultural crops grown during kharif and Rabi seasons. The premium rates are capped at 10% during kharif, 8% during Rabi and 12% for annual commercial/ horticultural crops. Crops include cereals, millets, pulses, oilseeds, wheat, barley, gram, lentil, mustard, potato, onion, cumin, coriander, fenugreek, isabgol. Of the total premium, only a part will be payable by the cultivator, and rest will be borne equally by state and the central government. (<http://www.business-standard.com>)

SOLOMON PATIENTS DONATED WITH VIRGIN COCONUT OIL

Patients at the National Referral Hospital received Christmas presents of local virgin body oil and soap – courtesy of Kokonut Pacific Solomon Islands.

A team from the local company visited the hospital's Labour and Special Care wards to make the donations. Kokonut Pacific's June Fakari'i this is their first time to make a Christmas visit to the hospital.

"Our oil and soap are made from virgin coconut oil and they are suitable for the body," she said. Ms. Fakari'i said they wanted to remember those who are sick at this time of the year and hope their visit will uplift their spirit.

Margaret Paul, a mother with a new born baby, said the donation would not have come at a better time for her. "This will save me from buying oil and soap from the shops for my child," she said.

"Thank you Kokonut Pacific for the timely visit and donation." (<http://www.solomonstarnews.com>)

TOBOLAR, RMI SEEKS FOR VOLUTEERS FOR PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY MENTOR-VIRGIN COCONUT OIL

Tobolar Copra Processing Authority was created in 1977 and is the only copra-

processing mill in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). Located in the RMI's capital of Majuro, it buys copra from most of the outer atolls and processes the copra into crude coconut oil (CNO) and copra cakes and exports them to international markets.

Tobolar Copra Processing Authority is also responsible for developing in the coconut industry and promoting its products to ensure long-term success of the industry and improve the standard of living of people in the outer islands, who rely on coconuts as their livelihood.

To ensure a constant supply of quality virgin coconut oil, and support a strategic goal of sustainable economic development for the people of the RMI, Tobolar Copra Processing Authority will set up six production units in different atolls and provide training to people of the outer atolls.

Tobolar was looking for volunteers for processing technology mentor-virgin coconut oil who is Australian or New Zealand Citizens resident in Australia, and will work with Australian Volunteers for International Development Program. As a result of this project, a volunteer is needed to provide technical support and training to set up and supervise the support system for the virgin coconut oil production.

To be successful in this role a volunteer need: 1) Applied knowledge in the production of coconut oil or another vegetable/edible oil, or related experience in processing/engineering an agricultural crop from its raw state to a finished product; 2) Demonstrated experience in developing and implementing a marketing plan; 3) Applied knowledge of working with extension programmes; 4) Extensive knowledge in project formulation and management; 5) Demonstrated success in building the skills of others through formal and/or informal training and coaching and 6) Personal attributes must include the ability to cope with cultural isolation, a willingness to learn the local language and a good understanding and appreciation of the local lifestyle.

The recruited volunteer must be available to attend a pre-departure briefing in Melbourne on 12-14 March 2014. (<http://www.australianvolunteers.com>)

COIR BOARD HOPEFUL OF RS. 5,000-CRORE DOMESTIC MARKET IN TWO YEARS

Coir Board expects to more than triple the annual sale of coir and coir products in the domestic market over the next two years from the current level of roughly Rs.1,500 crore through a mix of sustained marketing campaigns and awareness creation about coir products.

Coir Board Chairman G. Balachandran has said that the board's efforts were now focussed on overcoming impediments to marketing of coir products effectively in the domestic market.

These impediments included a lack of identity for coir products in India and the bulkiness of some of these products.

Physical qualities like their bulk have turned coir products unattractive to buyers in some parts of India, especially where they are not familiar with the coir industry. But these problems are being continuously worked upon and a significant amount of success has been achieved in reducing weight and thickness of coir mats, he said.

As part of creating awareness, the board has put together a 'Coir Kranti Yatra', a mobile exhibition of coir products from Kanyakumari to Kashmir.

The Yatra has covered eight States and is now in Delhi. Coir products have also been exhibited in Delhi at four venues, which have been visited by about two lakh people already, he said. The exhibition and the Yatra are part of the 60th Anniversary of the Coir Board.

The quality of coir products has also been increased significantly by mixing other fibres like jute and sisal silk with coir.

The results have been good and encouraged more diversification of products.

The Coir Board has also launched the process of appointing more retailers across India. The exercise is aimed at increasing the number of dealers from the current 30 to about 100, he said. The board has already appointed two zonal distributors, one each to cater to Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Goa; and for the rest of the States.

The key challenge being faced by coir products is from plastic and fibre substitutes, he said while pointing out that the environment friendliness of coir products is the major attraction for discerning buyers.

This factor has made coir products very attractive to buyers in the developed countries.

Coir products export earnings touched Rs.1,116 crore during the last financial year from the level of Rs.1,052 crore during the previous year.

Coir exports between April and September this year stands approximately at Rs. 612 crore with nearly five per cent growth in value. Coir exports were worth Rs. 587 crore during the same period last year. (<http://www.thehindu.com>)

INDIAN COIR BOARD TO HELP REHABILITATE INMATES

A report from *The Hindu Business Line* says the Alappuzha based Central Coir Research Institute (CCRI) is assisting Tihar's reform program designed to enable inmates to rejoin social mainstream and eke out a living once they complete their prison terms. The rehabilitation program at Tihar, South Asia's largest prison which spreads over 400 acres and currently houses more than 12,000 inmates, is widely known for helping the prisoners, both men and women, conduct themselves in a way that can give them a better life after their release.

According to a Coir Board release early this month its Research and Development wing had begun shipping the necessary machinery and sending experts to train the inmates in three areas of coir production: spinning coir yarn, weaving geo-textiles, and

making furniture out of coir board. Coir Board Chairman G. Balachandran said the machines for the project are on their way to Delhi. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

FUEL TO SOAP, PHILIPPINE COCONUT CROP DAMAGE FANS SUPPLY WORRIES

The destruction of an estimated three million coconut palms in last month's deadly typhoon in the Philippines is set to squeeze global supply for years of the tropical fruit used to make products from fuel to health drinks.

Even before Typhoon Haiyan tore through the Philippines, the United Nations had warned that global demand for coconuts was outstripping production in Asia, home to 85 percent of output.

The crop losses in the Philippines, the world's top exporter of coconut oil, have already helped drive prices up as much as 40 percent since the storm and led to a scramble for supplies from top producer Indonesia, and for alternatives to the edible oil.

But with little chance of Indonesia or India, another top producer, plugging the gap prices are expected to climb even further next year and beyond, analysts and traders say.

There is also continuing demand pressure, helped by heavy marketing of coconut water as an electrolyte-rich health drink that has led investments in suppliers by soft drink giants Coca-Cola Co and PepsiCo Inc.

Coconut water and milk account alone for 30 percent of coconut consumption, according to data from the United Nations.

Coconut oil is extracted by crushing dried coconut, and is widely used in items such as soap and cosmetics, due to being rich in fatty lauric acid.

The leftover, copra meal, is often used as animal feed.

"One thing about lauric oils is they are the one oil when things are bad on supply, they can really go up crazily because people don't have much choice," James Fry,

chairman of commodities consultancy LMC International, told Reuters.

Philippine supply worries after Typhoon Haiyan struck in early November drove Rotterdam coconut oil prices as high as \$1,480 per tonne on Nov. 13, up 40 percent from before the storm and 80 percent on the year.

And analyst Fry and some traders say prices, currently at around \$1,260, could hit \$2,000 next year due to lower Asian supply.

While substitutes such as palm kernel oil could soak up some demand, plans to raise the Philippines' mandatory biodiesel blend could divert more coconut oil for fuel and add to demand pressures.

ONE-IN-FIVE DEPEND ON SECTOR

For the Philippines, the destruction will hurt not just exports but also millions of families making a living from producing and trading coconut oil and other products.

It could take years for supplies to be replenished after the storm that killed more than 6,000 people. Replanting will start only after relief operations are in place and trees will only bear fruit after three years.

The typhoon has knocked out up to 300,000 tonnes of coconut oil supply in the Southeast Asian country, according to the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), a government-linked agency.

"The full impact will be felt next year," said PCA Administrator Euclides Forbes, adding he hoped the decline in exports worth around \$1 billion in 2012 would not exceed 10 percent.

Forbes said among the hardest-hit areas were Leyte and Samar, provinces accounting for 15 percent of the 852,000 tonnes of coconut oil exported in 2012.

"The livelihoods of one in every five Filipinos are directly or indirectly dependent on the coconut sector," said Romulo Arancon, Jr. Executive Director of the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC), a group representing 18 coconut-producing countries.

INDONESIA AND INDIA

Indonesia could go some way in helping fill the gap in global demand, but relief will be limited as Southeast Asia's most populous nation typically consumes a lot of supply locally.

Indonesia produced about 850,000 tonnes of coconut oil in 2012, half of which was exported. However, the sector faces its own struggles from land scarcity to ageing trees.

Donatus Gede Sabon, Secretary General of the Indonesian Coconut Forum, estimated the country's output could drop by 0.5-1 percent this year and fall further in 2014.

India, which exports only about 6,500 tonnes of the world's 1.9 million annual coconut oil exports, will also offer little help as its domestic consumption grows alongside a swelling population.

The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization said last month that growth in output of coconut products in Asia was running at 2 percent annually, well behind the 10 percent global demand growth. The comments were made before the typhoon struck. (<http://www.reuters.com>)

COCONUT FARMERS AND COCONUT SUGAR GATHERING IN NORTH PETAJAM PASER REGENCY, INDONESIA

Swisscontact Indonesia Foundation supported by PT Chevron Indonesia has been running the CSES (Coconut Sector Enhancement for Sustainable Livelihood) program for approximately one year in the North Petajam Paser (PPU) Regency, East Kalimantan. The program aims to increase incomes and sustainable livelihoods for farmers and coconut sugar producers by increasing productivity and product quality (particularly for brown sugar). For approximately one year of project implementation many positive changes have been made such as fertilizing coconut trees with natural inputs (compost, green manure, coconut fiber, organic liquid fertilizer, and bacteria growth promoter); coconut intercropping with various crops (vegetables,

ginger, turmeric, banana, sapodilla, soursop, and forage); the availability of approximately 5,000 coconut seedlings in community palm nurseries; improved brown sugar cooking stoves which become cleaner, healthier, and more efficient in using firewood; increasing added value of brown sugar by granulating and using various models of the mold, as well as improving the quality of brown sugar.

To appreciate and to expose the results of this program, on December 18, 2013 Coconut Farmers and Coconut Sugar Gathering was held at the Corong Beach, Tanjung Tengah Village, North Penajam Regency, East Kalimantan. The event consists of exhibits of the brown sugar and other products produced by coconut farmers, dialogues with the Regent, award presentation to the competition winners of composting and clean and healthy kitchen, as well as a symbolic handover of coconut seedlings produced by community nurseries and seedlings for coconut intercropping.

What is interesting about this event is how the coconut sugar producers and coconut farmers compete in featuring unique things associated with coconut and brown sugar, both of which are the results of project activities as well as the potential that exists in each village for example, several types of natural inputs used for fertilizing coconuts; diverse forms of woven palm leaves; various forms of coconut shell utilization, coir, and midribs, as well as various forms of molded brown sugar, granulated brown sugar, and snacks using brown sugar helped to enliven the exhibition event. The Regent responded positively to this activity and asked his staff (PPU Regency Government) to continue what has been initiated by the Swisscontact Foundation in developing coconuts in Indonesia.

MARKET NEWS

PHILIPPINE COCO PRODUCTS EXPORT UP IN NOVEMBER

UCAP preliminary data show export of coconut products in November recovered

from last month year-on-year slump. Volume during the month surged 63.6% to 133,876 MT in copra terms from 81,810 MT in November last year and outpaced prior month preliminary total at 109,022 MT by 22.8%. The figure, however, was 8.0% short of the prior quarter (July-September) monthly average at 145,552 MT.

All export products but copra meal registered substantial increments from prior year data. Coconut oil shipment jumped 64.3% to 71,350 MT from 43,427 MT but lagged 10.9% from the previous quarter monthly average of 80,067 MT. Copra meal export shrank 29.5% to 46,406 MT from 65,828 MT. The shortfall was 14.1% when compared with the monthly average of 54,027 MT. Delivery of desiccated coconut pronouncedly increased by 51.0% to 10,751 MT from 7,121 MT and at the same time bested the monthly average of 9,887 MT by 8.7%. As in previous month, oleochemicals showed the highest climb with outbound load at 4,000 MT as copra rocketing 114.1% from 1,868 MT. Mirroring desiccated coconut, oleochemicals also beat the monthly average load at 3,166 MT by 26.3%. There was no reported export of copra as last year.

Total export in January-November at 1,837,726 MT in copra terms was an appreciable improvement by 36.0% from 1,351,190 MT at the same time a year ago. Breakdown is as follows, in MT: copra 116 (440 last year), coconut oil 1,026,617 (750,917), copra meal 744,480 (564,288), desiccated coconut 114,101 (88,628), oleochemicals as copra 31,651 (21,794). (*UCAP Bulletin*)

PERFORMANCE OF PH'S TOP NON-TRADITIONAL COCO PRODUCTS EXPORTS IN AUGUST

Data from the Philippine Coconut Authority show an increasing number of non-traditional coconut products generating monthly revenue of USD100,000 thus qualifying in the sector's top exports list. For the month of August there were 12 non-traditional coconut products in the list.

Leading the pack for the past five months was VIRGIN COCONUT OIL which earned USD2.461 million from export of 706 MT. This month volume jumped to more than 3fold year-ago figure at 197 MT. China was the biggest market for the month capturing 226 MT (32.0% share), followed by Netherlands at 143 MT (20.2%). Smaller volumes went to Australia at 92 MT (13.1%), Saudi Arabia 35 MT (5.0%), Switzerland 31 MT (4.4%), Hong Kong 28 MT (4.0%), Poland and Canada at 26 MT apiece (3.6%) and Malaysia 25 MT (3.5%). A dozen other countries jointly held 74 MT.

Second biggest non-traditional export was GLYCERIN with export receipts of USD2.434 million from sale of 2,239 MT. Tonnage exceeded by 35 MT year-ago at 2,204 MT. Japan was primary outlet cornering 1,165 MT or 52.0% of total sales, followed far behind by China at 284 MT (12.7%). Limited quantities went to Thailand at 188 MT (8.4%), United States 165 MT (7.4%), Korea 113 MT (5.0%), Netherlands 100 MT (4.5%), Germany 88 MT (3.9%), Hong Kong 48 MT (2.1%), and four other countries that shared the balance of 89 MT (4.0%).

COIR & COIR PRODUCTS took the third spot with income of USD588,543 from shipment of 1,418 MT, a quantity more than 2 times the previous year at 618 MT. Korea was top buyer with purchases of 1,035 MT (73.0%), trailed by Malaysia at 266 MT (18.7%). Uptakes by Thailand stood at 24 MT, United Kingdom and Italy at 23 MT apiece, with four other countries absorbing the remainder at 89 MT.

ALKONAMIDE ranked fourth with proceeds of USD564,133 from delivery of 344 MT. Total load was more than 6 times last year data at 52 MT. China was market leader with 135 MT (39.2%), followed by Lebanon at 125 MT (36.3%). The United States took in limited tonnage at 55 MT (16.0%), along with Vietnam and Hong Kong at 10 MT apiece and Indonesia at 9 MT.

COCO FLOUR landed fifth with turnover of USD515,868. Outbound load at 214 MT

exponentially grew from previous year at merely 230 kilograms. Korea was virtually an exclusive market at 179 MT (83.6%). Other markets were the United States at 19 MT (8.6%) and Japan at 17 MT (7.7%).

COCONUT WATER was sixth top export with foreign exchange receipts of USD495,192 MT from overseas purchases of 498,441 liters. Volume increased by 27.7% from previous year at 390,337 liters. China was major destination controlling 100,178 liters or 20.1 % of total business. Smaller markets held less than 100,000 liters: Japan at 65,317 liters, United States 59,459 liters, Netherlands 50,700 liters, Germany 43,011 liters, Korea 27,210 liters, Mexico 26,280 liters, Malaysia 25,920 liters, Australia 25,040 liters, Indonesia 25,000 liters and Ireland 24,090 liters. Three other countries took in the balance of 26,236 liters.

ACID OIL came in seventh and generated income of USD485,388. All of the month's trade at 931 MT (no export last year) went to China.

SHAMPOO which earned USD420,105 from export of 85 MT (16 MT year-ago) filled in the eighth place. Japan was principal buyer cornering 28 MT (32.7%), followed by Australia at 26 MT (29.9%), Hong Kong 25 MT (29.4%), Guam 5 MT (5.5%) and four other countries with combined uptake of 2 MT.

NATA DE COCO with turnover of USD215,517 from business of 266 MT was ranked ninth. Delivery during the month shrank by 38.8% from prior year at 434 MT. This year's export went to three countries. Japan was almost an exclusive outlet with uptake of 242 MT (91.1%). Limited volumes went to Hong Kong at 13 MT (5.1%) and United States at 10 MT (3.7%).

TOILET/BATH SOAP was tenth leading non-traditional export, earning USD150,334 from transactions involving 105 MT. The figure was sharply contracted by 86.3% from previous year at 767 MT. Indonesia was virtually the only importer responsible for 99 MT (94.3%). Other markets were Guam at 2 MT; Singapore, Thailand, Trust Territory of

the Pacific, South Africa, Hong Kong with 1 MT apiece; and four other countries which collectively bought 1 MT.

COCO HUSK CUBES took the 11th slot with earnings of USD142,120 from dealings of 500 MT. Volume during the month leaped 192.4% from 171 MT last year. Korea was primary importer responsible for 461 MT (92.3%). The only other market was China at 39 MT (7.7%).

Completing the top 12 non-traditional exports was COCO HANDICRAFTS which contributed USD115,904 from unspecified volume. There was no shipment during the previous year. The United States was responsible for USD88,204 while Maldives for the remaining amount of USD27,700. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

DESTINATIONS OF COCONUT OIL EXPORT

Export of coconut oil in August consisted of 20,617 MT crude coconut oil, 20,271 MT cochin (refined, bleached) coconut oil, and 66 MT RBD (refined, bleached, and deodorized) oil, the combined value of which was USD35.511 million. For the first time the top three importers during the month were not the traditional buyers US and Europe. Leading the pack was Hong Kong which cornered 12,902 MT representing 31.5% of total. All imports were cochin oil which also made the country the primary buyer of cochin oil.

Malaysia followed with market share of 23.3% at 9,536 MT, all of which was crude coconut oil that also made the country the market leader in the section. Third was Indonesia with 7,000 MT (17.1%), solely crude coconut oil and the second biggest importer of the commodity. Europe was the fourth biggest outlet at 6,777 MT (16.5%), trailed by Singapore 2,156 MT (5.3%), the US 943 MT (2.3%) and Japan 597 MT (1.5%). The rest had less than 1% market share.

Europe was third biggest market for crude coconut oil this month, after Malaysia and Indonesia, at 4,000 MT (Netherlands), while Singapore and China took in 40 MT

apiece. Europe also was second biggest outlet for cochin oil, next to Hong Kong, with 2,777 MT (thereof Belgium 2,019 MT, France 758 MT), tracked by Singapore 2,050 MT, Japan 597 MT, Canada 355 MT, Taiwan 355 MT, Thailand 268 MT, and Jordan 24 MT. Singapore was the only buyer of 66 MT RBD oil.

...OF COPRA AND COPRA MEAL

The market for copra meal has become diverse this month with total export at 39,179 MT worth USD7.802 million expanding to outside of Asia. After many years, Germany was back in the market along with Netherlands. Japan was this month principal buyer at 12,912 MT (33.0%), trailed by Germany at 9,171 MT (23.4%), Korea 7,720 MT (19.7%), Vietnam 4,263 MT (10.9%), Australia 1,649 MT (4.2%), and Taiwan 1,227 MT (3.1%). Other importers took in less than 2% namely Malaysia 557 MT, Thailand 491 MT, Mongolia 430 MT, Kuwait 325 MT, Singapore 300 MT, and Ireland, Netherlands, and India which jointly held 133 MT.

All of the month's export of copra at 23 MT costing USD24,300 went to Korea.

...OF DESICCATED COCONUT

Outbound shipment of desiccated coconut in August at 10,043 MT turned in USD16.211 million. For the first time Japan was chief importer for the month at 2,071 MT (20.6%), dislodging consisted leader the US which took delivery of 1,584 MT (15.8%). Singapore was third at 1,390 MT (13.8%). China at 697 MT and Netherlands 510 MT jointly shared 12.0%. Eleven countries with uptake ranging 122-460 MT together were responsible for 28.7%: Malaysia, Germany, Hong Kong, Thailand, Tunisia, Vietnam, Korea, France, Poland, Sri Lanka, and Switzerland. Meanwhile, 18 other countries with purchases ranging 2-97 MT had combined market share of 9.2%.

...OF COCO SHELL PRODUCTS

Export of coconut shell charcoal at 4,783 MT generated USD1.800 million in August. Similar to copra meal, market for the

product also extended beyond Asia. China was major destination at 1,574 MT (32.9%), trailed by Japan 580 MT (12.1%), Saudi Arabia 413 MT (8.6%), US 340 MT (7.1%), Mexico 315 MT (6.6%), Taiwan 307 MT (6.4%), Korea 264 MT (5.5%), and Iran 260 MT (5.4%). The rest had market share less than 5% but jointly accounted for 9.0%: Singapore 205 MT, Netherlands 115 MT, and Italy 112 MT. On the other hand, four countries namely France, Thailand, Hong Kong and Poland, with uptake ranging 50-96 MT had combined contribution of 6.2% or 296 MT.

Export of activated carbon at 5,030 MT in August had proceeds of USD7.497 million. The US was market leader at 1,201 MT (23.9%). Completing the top five destinations were China 953 MT (19.0%), Japan 616 MT (12.2%), Singapore 11.4%, and Malaysia 355 MT (7.1%). The next set of buyers, viz. Taiwan 245 MT, Korea 204 MT, Germany 184 MT, and Mexico 111 MT together comprised 14.8% of the market, while 18 others which bought between 9 MT and 80 MT had combined share of 11.7%. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

CHINESE IMPORT OF LAURIC OILS DOWN IN SEPTEMBER

Data from *Oil World* show China imported 43,700 MT of lauric oils in September this year, a drop by 6.6% from same period year-ago at 46,800 MT on reduced palm kernel oil uptake. Palm kernel oil comprised the bulk of import amounting to 32,700 MT (74.8% share) while coconut oil was 11,000 MT (25.2%). Import of coconut oil during the month leaped sharply by 61.8% from same period year-ago at 6,800 MT while palm kernel oil plunged by 18.3% from 40,000 MT.

Malaysia was the country's major source of lauric oil contributing 43.9% with delivery of 19,200 MT (20,900 MT year-ago). This consisted of 17,600 MT (20,600 MT) of palm kernel oil and 1,600 MT (300 MT) of coconut oil. Indonesia was responsible for 34.8% with total amounting to 15,200 MT (25,300 MT) of which 100 MT (5,900 MT) was

coconut oil and 15,100 MT (19,400 MT) was palm kernel oil. The Philippines contributed 8,800 MT (400 MT) of coconut oil only for a market share of 20.1%. Supply from other countries was solely coconut oil at 400 MT (200 MT).

The cumulative January-September figure which stood at 579,800 MT was 15.2% higher than a comparable year ago period total at 503,400 MT. Of this total, palm kernel oil was 475,600 MT (341,100 MT), the bulk of which at 305,700 MT (230,700 MT) came from Indonesia. Import of coconut oil at 104,200 MT (162,300 MT) likewise came largely from Indonesia at 49,000 MT (133,100 MT). The Philippines supplied 46,500 MT of coconut oil for said period.

JAPANESE IMPORT OF LAURIC OIL UP IN SEPTEMBER

Data from *Oil World* show Japanese import of lauric oils at 10,400 MT in September rose by 18.2% from same period year-ago at 8,800 MT. Palm kernel oil comprised the bigger part of import amounting to 5,600 MT (53.8% share) while coconut oil was only 4,800 MT (46.2%). Import of coconut oil, however, leaped 92.0% from 2,500 MT year-ago while that of palm kernel oil dropped by 11.1% from 6,300 MT.

The Philippines was the country's major source of lauric oil contributing 46.2% from delivery of 4,800 MT (2,300 MT year-ago) of coconut oil. Malaysia supplied 4,200 MT (5,800 MT) of palm kernel oil and was responsible for 40.4%. Indonesia contributed 1,400 MT (nil) of palm kernel oil and shared 13.5% of the market. There was no supply from other countries during the month as against 700 MT last year thereof 200 MT was coconut oil and 500 MT was palm kernel oil.

The cumulative January-September 2013 figure which stood at 99,900 MT exceeded by 5.3% a comparable year ago period total at 94,900 MT. Of this total, palm kernel oil was 68,400 MT (64,000 MT), the bulk of which at 55,600 MT (62,800 MT) came from Malaysia. Import of coconut oil at 31,500

MT (30,900 MT) originated largely from Philippines at 30,600 MT (29,100 MT).

U.S. IMPORT OF LAURIC OILS DOWN IN SEPTEMBER

Oil World figures reveal U.S. import of lauric oils in September totaled 68,800 MT, a sharp drop by 20.7% from 86,600 MT in the same month year-ago dragged for the most part by the plunge in coconut oil uptake. Of this total, coconut oil accounted for 64.7% or 44,500 MT (60,000 MT in the prior year) while palm kernel oil contributed the remaining 35.3% or 24,300 MT (26,800 MT).

Bulk of lauric oil supply during the month came from the Philippines consisting of coconut oil at 33,100 MT (52,100 MT) and representing 48.1% of the pack. Shipment from Malaysia was responsible for 17,800 MT (24,500 MT) or 25.9%, of which 17,700 MT (23,900 MT) was palm kernel oil and 100 MT (600 MT) was coconut oil. Indonesia contributed 14,800 MT (9,800 MT) of which 8,200 MT (7,200 MT) was coconut oil and 6,600 MT (2,600 MT) was palm kernel oil. Purchases from other countries totaled 3,200 MT (500 MT) of which 3,100 MT (200 MT) was coconut oil and 100 MT (300 MT) was palm kernel oil.

January-September import at 649,900 MT was 9.3% higher than same time last year figure at 594,800 MT. Coconut oil was 433,700 MT (394,300 MT) of which 78.4% or 340,100 MT (291,400 MT) came from the Philippines. Palm kernel oil was 216,200 MT (200,500 MT) of which 82.0% or 177,300 MT (185,300 MT) originated from Malaysia.

PHILIPPINES - COCO EXPORTS SOARED BY 64% IN NOVEMBER 2013

The volume of coconut-based exports jumped by 64 percent year-on-year in November despite Supertyphoon "Yolanda" ravaging millions of coconut trees in the Visayas.

Preliminary data from the United Coconut Associations of the Philippines (UCAP) showed that the country shipped out

last month 133,876 metric tons of coconut products in copra terms.

The November volume also represented a 23-percent surge from the 109,022 MT exported in October.

UCAP observed, however, that the November shipments fell short of the monthly average of 145,552 MT that was recorded in the quarter ending September.

Still, for the 11 months to November, the volume of coconut exports showed strong expansion at 36 percent with a total of 1.84 million MT.

All product categories, except copra, showed double-digit increases during the 11-month period.

The January to November shipments of coconut oil jumped by 37 percent to 1.03 MT; copra meal by 32 percent to 744,480 MT; desiccated coconut by 29 percent to 114,101 MT and oleochemicals, in copra term, by 45 percent to 31,651 MT.

During the period, the volume of copra export plunged by 74 percent to 116 MT.

In November, alone, shipments of top dollar-earner coconut oil surged by 64 percent to 71,350 MT, as did desiccated coconut, which jumped 51 percent to 10,751 MT.

Oleochemical exports rocketed by 114 percent to 4,000 MT in copra terms but the volume of copra meal exports dropped by 30 percent to 46,406 MT.

In a related development, the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) is setting up a P60-million coco coir tufting facility in Javier, Leyte, as part of efforts to bring exports up the value chain.

The planned facility is meant to produce high-quality mats, geotextiles and rugs for shipment overseas.

Being developed in cooperation with the local government of Javier, the workshop is awaiting tufting machines that are expected to arrive from India within the month.

According to the PCA, the project will benefit some 500 families, creating up to

2,500 jobs related to the making of twines from coco coir.

Last October, officials of the PCA and of Javier signed an agreement through which the agency committed to provide the facility. For its part, the town council would mobilize the local coconut farmers' organization and put up counterpart funds.

Back then, PCA Administrator Euclides G. Forbes said the agency would promote the technology that would add value to coconut products and by-products such as the manufacture of twine and rope from coco coir. (<http://business.inquirer.net>)

PROMISING OUTLOOK FOR COCONUT WATER IN THE BEVERAGE INDUSTRY

Euromonitor, a business intelligence company based in London and leading strategy researchers for consumer markets described the 2013 beverage industry as an eventful one, noting declining interests in soft drinks, the war on caffeine, and the explosion of raw juices and functional beverages. It projects another strong year for premium juices, COCONUT WATER and other functional beverages, as well as growing interest in sweetener blends that can satisfy both low-calorie needs and demand for "natural" marketing claims.

Euromonitor US analyst, Virginia Lee, predicted that "COCONUT WATER, despite its recent slowdown is poised to do well for the next few years among mid-level and affluent customers because of its positioning as nature's electrolytes along with its low-calorie appeal".

COCO COIR FACILITY TO BE SET UP IN LEYTE

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) is to set up a P60-million coco coir tufting facility in Javier, Leyte to produce high quality mats, geotextiles and rugs. "Through this tufting facility, we will not just be exporting low-cost raw fiber. If we can ship semi-finished and finished products, there's an added value," said PCA Regional Manager Edilberto V. Nierva adding that said machines

will be delivered from India within the year and will be available for local coconut farmers to use. The project is expected to benefit about 500 families and generate up to 2,500 jobs solely for twine making.

Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala, PCA Administrator Euclides G. Forbes, and Javier Mayor Leonardo M. Javier signed an agreement last Oct. 26 in Javier town to govern the facility's operation. Under the agreement, the PCA will provide the facility while the local government unit will mobilize the coconut farmers' organization and put up counterpart funds. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

COCONUT TECHNOLOGY NEWS

CREAMY COCONUT MILK POWDER HAS LONG SHELF-LIFE

Sternchemie says its spray-dried coconut milk powder offers many benefits for large-scale food preparation. SternCream, which can be used in wet and dry products, is said to be easy to process, and has a long shelf-life. With its low-water content and oxidation stability, the powder has a shelf-life at least 24 months. It also has a higher microbiological stability than coconut milk or desiccated coconut. Furthermore, due to the gentle drying process all of its valuable nutrients are retained, according Sternchemie. The product is also said to be free of preservatives, artificial colors and flavorings.

COIR PITH CAN BE A SOURCE OF ENERGY

Experiments conducted by the research and development wing of the Coir Board in India revealed that electricity can be generated from coir pith, a traditionally considered waste from coir production. It is also used to fill low-lying lands in the country.

The board is now planning to set up a power generation project fueled by coir pith, a first of its kind in the country. It is in talks with a Mumbai-based firm which has agreed to set up a 10-MW plant powered by coir pith, according to G. Balachandran, Chairman of

the Coir Board. For continuous availability of raw material for the power unit, the Coir Board will launch a program for scientific procurement of coconut husk. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

DP CLEANTECH TO BUILD THAI COCONUT-TO-ENERGY POWER PLANT

Biomass and waste-to-energy provider DP Cleantech have developed an advanced biomass combustion technology to efficiently convert coconut waste into clean energy. The company recently signed a contract to deliver the new turnkey solution for the Mahachai Green Power project in Samut Sakhon Province, Thailand. The state-of-the-art, high pressure, high temperature.

The 9.5MW plant will be delivered on an EPC basis including all electro-mechanical systems, and will run on coconut waste residues, (husk, shell, frond and leaves). The new advanced design has been adapted especially for coconut waste to ensure minimal fuel consumption, flexibility to mix several kinds of fuels in various sizes, high power yields and will include high efficiency flue gas cleaning systems to lower emissions below regulatory standards. DP Cleantech is able to guarantee long-term stable performance, operating at full capacity for more than 7,900 hours per year.

DP Cleantech will manage delivery of the project from its South-East-Asia headquarters office in Bangkok. The project is expected to be grid-connected within 18 months after the kickoff date. The power generated by the plant will be fed into the public PEA grid, and will benefit from Thailand's strong biomass feed-in-tariffs. Any remaining ashes will be used as fertilizer for farming or filler material for construction. The project is also expected to create a substantial amount of local employment both in developing the project on the ground as well as in creating value for local farmer's coconut waste.

DP CleanTech CEO Mr. Simon Parker commented "We are very excited to work on this industry-leading project which gives us

the opportunity to showcase the flexibility and efficiency of our new multi-fuel solution, as well as demonstrate the full scope of our capabilities in delivering a project end to end. We believe that the energy market in Thailand is ready to be at the forefront of the new generation of solutions for biomass to power, using higher efficiency, multifuel and low emissions solutions. In addition, we believe that DP's uniquely collaborative approach with Mahachai Green power and our project execution model will set the standard for the future." (<http://www.biomassmagazine.com>)

DECENTRALISED APPROACH FOR PRODUCTION OF HYBRID COCONUT SEEDLINGS IN FARMER'S GARDEN

Coconut, the *Kalpavirksha*, is useful to man in many ways. It is cultivated all over the tropical world, mostly the coastal belt. In India, it is cultivated in 18 states and three union territories covering an area of 1.9 million hectares. While the all India average productivity of coconut is around 8900 nuts/ha, in Kerala it is only 7900 nuts/ha. Cultivation of high yielding improved varieties is one of the important means to enhance productivity of coconut to make it a remunerative crop. Major thrusts in coconut research have been for increasing productivity. Efforts to enhance genetic potential resulted in the development of many improved varieties. There are 21 selections and 15 hybrids in the country today developed by Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Kerala Agricultural University (KAU), Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University (APAU), Konkan Krishi Vidyalaya (KKV) and Assam Agricultural University (AAU). Though a large number of improved varieties and hybrids have been released by different research institutes, lack of availability of quality seedlings continues to be a major problem faced by farmers.

Coconut is a long duration crop with a long juvenile period spanning 7 to 10 years and a long productive period of above fifty years. Hence, use of quality planting materials is very important in realizing high productivity.

Hybrids are very popular among farmers as they yield high under proper management. In Kerala, both COD x WCT (Chowghat Orange Dwarf x West Coast Tall) and WCT x COD (West Coast Tall x Chowghat Orange Dwarf) hybrids perform well giving an annual yield of above 100 nuts per palm. There is high demand for seedlings of these hybrids from growers. Unfortunately, availability of such hybrid seedlings is very limited because only government agencies like Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Coconut Development Board (CDB) and Agriculture Department of Govt. of Kerala produce hybrid seedlings. The scenario can be improved by decentralized production of hybrids in a farmer participatory mode. Empowering farmers and coconut climbers with the technique of hybrid production will help in localized production of coconut hybrids. Coconut Producers' Societies (CPS), the grass root level collective of coconut growers facilitated by Coconut Development Board, and trained youths under the Friends of Coconut Trees (FoCT) programme can play a significant role in the decentralized production and distribution of quality hybrid coconut seedlings. The process can be technically supported by research organizations such as CPCRI. The technique of coconut hybrid production is explained here. (*Indian Coconut Journal, September 2013*)

CHOCOLATE FAT REDUCTION A CHALLENGE FOR EU MANUFACTURERS

Speaking at the industry event FIE last month, Mars' material science program manager, Isabelle Van Damme, said that EU regulation on how much fat content is required in order to call a product chocolate is a real challenge for manufacturers. While they are trying to reduce fat content of chocolate, the industry is caught between this driver and that of EU regulation which dictates that a product of less than 25% fat cannot be called chocolate, only a chocolate-type product. At the same time a product must cut fat by 23% in order to claim to be reduced fat. This European regulation means that "there is a limit to how far we can go," she explained.

Van Damme said the manufacturers are working towards ways of reducing fat content and calories but that there is no overnight solution. "The only way to do that (reduce fat and calories) at the moment is by portions." Mars is committed to 250 kilo calories per bar globally. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

ELIMINATING TRANS FATS A CHALLENGE FOR MINNESOTA'S FOOD COMPANIES

Completely removing trans fats will be a technological challenge for Minnesota's food companies although like much of the industry they have made significant progress over the past decade. General Mills, Hormel and other firms started work as science groups and regulators notably the Food and Drug Administration announced listing of trans fats content on food labels. Hence, many of these companies said more than 95% of their retail food portfolio is free of trans fats.

A few brands though have been found to still contain some trans fats, a report said, citing General Mills' Betty Crocker cake mixes and frostings; Pillsbury's refrigerated biscuit dough and its Gardetto's original snack mix. Austin-based Hormel Foods' Mary Kitchen corned beef hash contains some, as do a few iterations of its Simple Ideas line of refrigerated meat entrees. (*UCAP Bulletin*)

BIO-DIESEL NEWS

THAILAND TO RAISE BIODIESEL OUTPUT TARGET

Thailand plans to increase its biodiesel production target to 7.3M liters/ day by 2021 compared to an earlier target of 5.9M litres/day, under its Alternative Energy Development Plan (2012-2021), a source at the Energy Policy and Planning Office told *Platts*. Thailand's current biodiesel production is about 2.8M litres/day.

The increase was announced shortly after the Thai government revealed plans to roll out a B7 mandate in January 2014.

The raised mandate also comes after the government said in July that it would reduce its production target for advanced biofuels to three million litres/ day by 2021, from an earlier target of 25M litres/ day of advanced biofuels was to come from jatropha, seaweed, wood, biomass and biohydrorefined diesel.

Thailand has 13 biodiesel refineries with a combined production capacity of 5.4M litres, but these have been operating at around 50% capacity in recent years, due to farming inefficiencies, government and industry sources told *Platss*.

“This will change as the country gears up for the higher biofuel mandate,” one of the sources said. (*Oil & Fats International, October/November 2013*)

ARGENTINA-BIODIESEL POLICY

The government of decided to raise mandatory blending of diesel transportation fuel with soyoil-based biodiesel from formerly 8% to 10%. The new rate will apply from 1st January 2014 and also concerns fuel burned for power generation. The increase was introduced to compensate domestic biodiesel producers for European trade lost after the EU imposed strict anti-dumping duties on biodiesel imports from Argentina earlier this year. Once fully implemented, the higher rate is estimated to raise annual domestic biodiesel consumption by 450 000 tons. Private sources estimate current biodiesel consumption at no more than 850 000 tons per year. According to government officials, the sales price of blended fuels is going to remain unchanged. The government-set price is said to guarantees producers a fixed profit margin of 4%. (*www.fao.org/economic/est/en*)

BRASIL-BIODIESEL POLICY

Reportedly, the government is evaluating the possibility of an increase in the mandatory blending rate of biodiesel. Although no further details have been provided, private sources believe that the rate would be raised from 5% (in place since January 2005) to 7%. Currently estimated at 2.65 million tons, annual

domestic biodiesel demand would climb to 3.7 million tons as a result of the higher blending rate. Estimates for the country's current biodiesel production capacity range between 6 and 7 million tons. During the last two years, the industry has expanded strongly due to investments by multinational trading firms and crushers. (*www.fao.org/economic/est/en*)

CHINA-BIODIESEL POLICY

Reportedly, the government will start taxing the consumption of fuels blended with biodiesel whenever the biodiesel content is less than 30 percent. The planned tax will match the existing consumption tax on conventional fuel. Blends with higher biodiesel content will remain tax exempt. Reportedly, the measures is meant to stop tax-free importation of low-rate blends into the country. Imports of such blends are said to have surged this year – encouraged by the absence of consumption taxes. (*www.fao.org/economic/est/en*)

UNITED STATES-BIOFUEL POLICY

On November 15th, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to keep next year's mandatory consumption of biomass-based diesel at 1.28 billion gallons (or 4.28 million tons) – the same level as this year. EPA will accept comments for a period of 60 days, following which it is going to publish its final decision. The targets proposed for 2014 diverge from the RFS standard issued in 2007, which envisaged a gradual expansion in consumption up to the year 2022, with total biodiesel consumption possibly reaching 2 billion gallons in 2014. Reportedly, EPA has adjusted the original targets for current market and technology realities. The proposed 2014 target ranges well below the industry's installed production capacity – estimated at close to 3 billion gallons – and compares to an actual total output this year's of about 1.7 billions gallons. Although this year's excess production (relative to the compliance target of 1.28 billion gallons) may be carried over into 2014, that would reduce next year's effective target even further. Already braced

for another expiration of the blenders tax credit at the end of December, the country's biodiesel producers are very concerned about EPA's proposal. The national biodiesel federation has suggested that the 2014 target be raised to today's actual production level (i.e. 1.7 billion gallons). Furthermore, it claims that, with consumption level stalled at 1.28 billion gallons, close to 8 000 biodiesel-supported jobs would be lost and USD 4.6 billion of total economic impact would foregone. (www.fao.org/economic/est/en)

OTHER VEGEOIL NEWS

PALM OIL CLIMBS IN MALAYSIA AS CRUDE GAINS

Palm oil advanced on speculation that a rally in crude oil prices to the highest level in more than two months will boost demand for the vegetable oil as feedstock for biofuels.

The contract for March delivery rose as much as 0.7 percent to 2,649 ringgit (\$804) a metric ton on the Bursa Malaysia Derivatives and ended the morning session at 2,641 ringgit. Futures increased 8.3 percent this year, set for the first annual gain since 2010.

Palm entered a bull market in November as output fell at plantations in Indonesia, the biggest supplier, and biodiesel demand increased. Prices may climb to 3,000 ringgit by March as demand increases for the commodity used in food and fuel, according to Dorab Mistry, Director at Godrej International Ltd.

"When crude oil prices increase it makes it more profitable to produce biodiesel from palm," said Alan Lim Seong Chun, an analyst at Kenanga Investment Bank.

West Texas Intermediate crude oil traded above \$100 a barrel for a second day after government data showed U.S. crude stockpiles fell more than expected to the lowest level since September. Futures were at \$100.28, near the highest settlement since Oct. 18.

Soybean oil for March delivery was little changed at 39.33 cents a pound on the Chicago Board of Trade. Soybeans fell 0.3 percent to \$13.1075 a bushel. Refined palm oil for May delivery gained 0.4 percent to 6,074 yuan (\$1,001) a ton on the Dalian Commodity Exchange. Soybean oil was little changed at 6,924 yuan. (*The Jakarta Post*, 31 December 2013)

RI'S PALM EXPORTS CLIMB TO 9-MONTH HIGH

Palm oil shipments by Indonesia, the world's largest producer, probably advanced to the highest level in nine months in November as rising prices prompted exporters to boost supplies.

Sales of palm and kernel oils gained 2.2 percent to 1.9 million tons from October, the median of estimates from five planters, traders and refiners compiled by Bloomberg showed.

That is the highest since February, data from the Indonesian Palm Oil Association shows.

Production remained at 2.4 million tons for a third month, according to four respondents: bringing output to 24.25 million tons in the first 11 months.

Shippers of the world's most consumed cooking oil are seeking to increase overseas sales after futures reached a 14-month high in Kuala Lumpur in November.

Prices are heading for the first annual gain in three years on speculation Indonesian output will decline for the first time since 1998.

Production may drop 500,000 tons to 27.5 million tons, Dorab Mistry, Director at Godrej International Ltd., said on November 29.

"Producers tried to boost exports after prices gained and shipments will remain high in December" as companies must meet contracts, said Derom Bangun, Chairman of the Indonesian Palm Oil Board.

He forecasts output of 2.2 million tons in December. That brings the total for the year to

26.45 million tons when added to the number in the Bloomberg surveys. (*The Jakarta Post*, 16 December 2013)

PALM OIL IMPORTS BY INDIA ADVANCE

Palm oil imports by India, the world's biggest buyer, climbed for the first time since June as traders boosted shipments on speculation that taxes may be increased to curb a surge in inflow of refined oils.

Purchases jumped 26 percent to 774,207 metric tons in November from a year earlier, the Solvent Extractors' Association said in an e-mailed statement today. That was more than the 700,000 tons predicted in a Bloomberg survey published last week. Total imports, including sunflower and soybean oils, surged 35 percent to 944,309 tons, the association said.

Rising demand from the world's second-most populous nation may trim stockpiles in Indonesia and Malaysia, the biggest global palm oil producers, and help extend the first annual increase in futures in Kuala Lumpur since 2010. India's government is considering raising import duties on refined oils to 10 percent from 7.5 percent to help local processors, government officials said last month.

"People were anticipating that there will be an increase in duty of RBD palm olein and that's one of the reasons why imports surged," said B.V. Mehta, Executive Director of the association. "We are disappointed that the decision has been delayed."

Cooking oil stockpiles at ports and pipelines increased to 1.47 million tons as of Dec. 1 from 1.4 million tons a month earlier, the lowest level since February 2012, data from the association showed. India meets more than 50 percent of its annual cooking oil demand through imports. (*The Jakarta Post*, 13 December 2013)

CHINA'S PALM OIL IMPORTS SEEN RISING TO 8-MONTH HIGH

Palm oil imports by China, the second-biggest buyer, may increase to the highest since April this month as consumption gains

before a traditional holiday, according to a Bloomberg News survey.

Purchases may be about 550,000 metric tons in December after 500,000 tons in November, the median of five estimates from researchers and traders in China surveyed this week shows.

Rising demand from China may add support to futures traded in Malaysia, a global benchmark, which are up 21 percent from this year's closing low in July. The Lunar New Year festival starting on Jan. 31 can boost demand for vegetable oil by food processors and packagers, who mix palm oil with other cooking oils, according to the survey.

"Consumption of palm oil has been good going into the year end," Tian Lei, an analyst at Bric Global Agricultural Consultants Ltd., said by phone from Guangzhou yesterday. "We foresee stable demand next year."

China's imports in the year that started on Oct. 1 may be the same level as a year earlier at 6.35 million tons, four of the respondents said, while one forecast a drop. Domestic inventory may increase "slightly" from 900,000 tons now, according to the survey.

Output in Indonesia, the world's biggest supplier, will slide 1.9 percent to 26.5 million tons this year, dropping for the first time since 1998 after heavy rains and drought, another Bloomberg survey showed.

Global production may exceed demand by the most ever in the year that began Oct. 1 as output surges to a record 58.3 million tons, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. (*The Jakarta Post*, 14 December 2013)

DID YOU KNOW.....

COCONUT SUGAR: A LOW GI SUGAR RICH IN AMINO ACIDS AND B VITAMINS

Coconut sugar, also called coconut sap sugar, is a sugar derived from the sap of coconut tree flowers. It has been used as a

traditional sweetener for centuries in regions where coconut trees flourish, such as Southeast Asia. Coconut sugar is mostly comprised of sucrose, which gives it a sweet, caramel-like flavor. Unlike refined white sugar, coconut sugar is minimally processed, and few if any chemicals are added to it, meaning that most of its minerals are left intact. For this reason, coconut sugar has become increasingly popular in the West as a substitute to white and brown sugar, and it is commonly sold in health food stores.

Health benefits

Suitable for diabetics - One of coconut sugar's biggest attractions as a sugar substitute is its low glycemic index score of 35, which is comparable to most fruits and vegetables. Consequently, the sugar has little impact on blood sugar levels, making it suitable for diabetics, pre-diabetics and anyone else who wants to avoid blood sugar spikes. Most other sugar substitutes, including maple syrup and honey, have a high GI score of 69 or more, while refined sugar itself can often reach the 90s!

Rich in amino acids - Since it is unprocessed, coconut sugar contains the same 16 amino acids as the sap from which it is derived. Specifically, 100 grams of coconut sugar provide us with 34.2 milligrams of glutamic acid (an essential neurotransmitter needed for proper brain function), 11.2 milligrams of aspartic acid (promotes metabolism function and is used to treat depression), 15.4 milligrams of threonine (maintains protein balance in the body) and 8.2 milligrams of serine (aids brain and nervous system function), as well as lower amounts of other essential and non-essential amino acids. These amino acids, being components of proteins, are needed for cell growth and repair, metabolism function and the production of hormones and enzymes.

B vitamin complex - Coconut sap is rich in vitamins, including 12 of the essential B vitamins, and coconut sugar inherits this benefit. Of all the B vitamins, coconut sugar is highest in inositol (vitamin B8), which is

needed for the formation of healthy cells and has also been used to treat anxiety and sadness. Coconut sugar is also high in thiamine, riboflavin, folic acid, choline, pyridoxal, para-aminobenzoic acid, pantothenic acid and nicotinic acid. It even contains trace amounts of vitamin B12, which is seldom found in plants. All of these B vitamins aid cellular metabolism and provide us with energy.

Excellent source of trace minerals - One teaspoon of coconut sugar contains numerous trace minerals that are not found in refined sugar. These minerals include phosphorous (important for bone growth and kidney function), potassium (reduces hypertension and lowers blood sugar levels), nitrogen (treats cardiovascular diseases), magnesium (regulates the metabolism and stimulates the brain), manganese (an important antioxidant) and copper (helps release energy and aids melanin production in the skin) as well as lower amounts of zinc, iron, calcium, boron, sulfur, sodium and chlorine.

Although the Coconut sugar and palm sugar are often used interchangeably, even in Southeast Asia, coconut sugar is different from palm sugar in all areas (taste, texture, manufacturing methods, and source). Unlike coconut sugar, which is always made from coconuts, palm sugar can be made from sugar palm, date palm, sago palm or any other "palm" product. Therefore, when purchasing coconut sugar products, always ensure that the "coconut" is clearly labeled. (<http://www.naturalnews.com>)

COCONUT OIL: CAN IT STOP ALZHEIMER'S?

When he was 53, Steve Newport began to suffer from Alzheimer's disease and kept getting worse — until five years later, when his wife and caregiver, Dr. Mary Newport, discovered coconut oil. Within hours of taking a couple of tablespoons, he started to improve.

Steve's memory improved, he was able to process information better, and he just seemed all-around more mentally sharp.

What If There Was a Cure?

Although it didn't cure Steve of the disease, the benefits of coconut oil were so striking that Dr. Newport became an advocate, and found that it helped many other people in similar situations. She wrote a book, *What If There Was a Cure?* and helped to instigate a clinical trial at the University of South Florida.

The study, which will begin enrolling participants in early summer, is being led by David Morgan, a researcher who has studied Alzheimer's for 25 years. Dr. Morgan is the CEO of the USF Health Byrd Alzheimer's Institute in Tampa, the largest center in the United States that both treats dementia patients and carries on clinical trials.

Promising Research

Earlier studies, though not conclusive, have found that coconut oil holds considerable promise as an Alzheimer's treatment. And, Dr. Morgan looked at anecdotal evidence from more than 200 people. "About 80 to 85 percent of these people experienced benefits," he tells Newsmax Health, "usually within a few weeks."

Coconut Oil: Brain Fuel

With Alzheimer's, specific types of plaques build up in the brain and destroy brain cells. Animal studies have found that coconut oil does not get rid of such plaques, according to Dr. Morgan, but it may help in another way. From what we know so far, he says, "Healthy parts of the brain work better."

More specifically, there is an underlying mechanism: In Alzheimer's and other neurological diseases, the brain is sometimes not able to use glucose, its basic source of energy. Coconut oil is unique in that it provides an alternative source of brain fuel, called ketones. Our bodies make ketones when body fat is burned for energy, such as during fasting, but fasting doesn't help people with Alzheimer's. Coconut oil appears to deliver the ketones in a way that is especially useful to the brain.

In any given case of a neurological disease, this mechanism may play a bigger or smaller role, so coconut oil benefits may vary. And that's part of what Dr. Morgan's study will help us understand.

How Much Coconut Oil Should You Take?

Solid at room temperature, coconut oil is a saturated fat, which conventional doctors consider unhealthy. But integrative physicians view coconut oil as a healthy fat, because it has unique properties. Unlike other saturated fats, it is high in medium-chain triglycerides (MCTs), a specific type of fat that provides ketones that fuel the brain. Coconut oil is also popular among body builders, because MCTs are believed to help to burn body fat.

MCTs make up about 60 percent of coconut oil. MCT oil is also available by itself in supplements, with fewer calories.

Earlier studies have found that 20 grams of MCTs daily are a therapeutic dose. That amount is found in slightly more than 2 tablespoons, or 7 level teaspoons of coconut oil.

In his study, Dr. Morgan is using a flavored drink (the brand is called Fuel for Thought) that combines coconut oil and MCT oil with water. Participants will be taking either a placebo or a one-ounce serving of the drink, three times daily, with a meal.

Coconut oil can be used in place of butter and oils in cooking, as a spread, and in smoothies. Processed foods sometimes contain "hydrogenated coconut oil," which is an altered form of the oil that is a trans fat and clogs arteries. Look for organic coconut oil, which is widely available in health food stores and some supermarkets and discount chains. (<http://www.newsmaxhealth.com>)

COCONUT RECIPE

"Coconut Cookies"

Ingredients:

- 1 package (14 ounces) sweetened shredded coconut (5 1/3 cups)

- 1 cup sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon baking powder
- ½ cup (1 stick) chilled unsalted butter, cut into small pieces
- 1 large egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour, (spooned and leveled)

Preparation:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Set aside 2 loosely packed cups of coconut on a plate. Place remaining coconut in a food processor along with sugar, salt, and baking powder; process until finely ground. Add butter, and process just until no lumps remain. Add egg and vanilla; process just until smooth. Add flour; pulse until a crumbly dough begins to form, scraping sides of bowl as needed (do not overmix).
2. Forming 5 or 6 at a time, scoop level tablespoons of dough, and place in reserved coconut. Roll into balls, coating with coconut.
3. Arrange balls, about 2 inches apart, on baking sheets. Bake until lightly golden, 23 to 25 minutes. Cool on baking sheets 1 to 2 minutes; transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.
(<http://www.marthastewart.com>)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

❖ **COPRA/COPRA EXPELLER OIL CAKE/ DESICCATED COCONUT / COPRA PARINGS**

A manufacturer of coconut oil is looking to import Copra Expeller Oil Cake in bulk quantity (8000 to 10000 M/tons) from Asian Pacific Region. Interested parties please contact:

Mr. Sachin
Incharge-Imports
Sowmya-Namratha Oil Refineries Pvt Ltd

No. 56, 10th Cross, II Main, II Stage
Off West of Chord Road
Mahalakshmiapuram, Bangalore-560086
Karnataka State, India
Mobile: 91-9686862561
Email: sowmya@namratha.in
Website: <http://www.namratha.in>

❖ **BROWN COCONUT SUGAR**

A Producer Group consisting of 286 coconut farmers in Sidamulya Village of South Lampung – Indonesia is able to supply large quantities of brown coconut sugar. The coconut sugar is produced through traditional method. Interested parties please contact:

Mr. Aan Kurniawan
Head
Sidamulya Village
South Lampung, Indonesia
Email through: apcc@indo.net.id

❖ **COCONUT CHARCOAL**

We are looking for coconut charcoal produces in Indonesia who can supply us in big volumes of good quality coconut shell charcoal on a monthly basis. For details please contact:

Mrs. Angela
Email: angelasoon@gmail.com

❖ **ACTIVATED CARBON**

We can supply activated carbon with quality and best price. For more information please contact:

Ms. Belle
201-Z, Agricultural Technology
Promotion and Service Center
Zhaoyuan Road, Dongli District
Tianjin City, China
Tel: +86-022-6092 6678
Email: belle@tjmaisen.com

❖ **COPRA MEAL/CAKE**

Buyer from Ho Chi Minh City Vietnam is looking for copra meal/cake supplier 500-1000 tons per contract in 3-4 partial shipments. For details contact:

Mr. Tuong
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Tel.: +841294690986

Email: andavi.jsc@gmail.com
Website: www.andavi.vn

❖ **COCONUT OIL**

Producer of coconut oil under the brand Arrow from Padang West Sumatera is ready to supply retail or bulk. For price please contact:

Ms. Yunita
Padang, West Sumatera, Indonesia
Tel. +62-751-22526
Email: lembahkrya@yahoo.co.id

❖ **DESICCATED COCONUT**

We can supply premium quality desiccated coconut with competitive price. For price and other details please contact:

Mr. Robert Franciscus
Sidoarjo, Indonesia
Email: robertfranw@yahoo.com

❖ **FIBER**

Ready to supply in large quantities mixed raw fiber at very competitive prices. For details contact:

Mr. Efli Ramli
Email: mahligai_indococo@yahoo.com
Tel.: 62-721-708780

❖ **COCONUTS**

We need monthly 18-25 - 40 containers of coconut. Give me good offer. Product Specification: Colour: Clear light brown, Name of Fruit: Matured and Semi Husked; Size: minimum "13 to 14 inches" one Coconut, Weight: 550gm to 600 gms; Packing: 25 nuts in each bag weight 14.5 kg above; Quantity: 1800 bags 40' HQ container; MOQ: 18 Container per Month; Weight: 550 - 600 grams; Brand Name: Ocean fresh; Cultivation Type: Common. 25 pieces in one bag. Interested parties please contact:

CIF DUBAI JEBELALI PORT
Mr. Perumal Ranga
India
Telp.: +971503621345
Email: splendorfoodstuuf@gmail.com
SKYPE ID: peruma.ranganathan



STATISTICS

Table 1. Indonesia's Monthly Exports of Coconut Oil (in MT), 2011-2013

Month	2011		2012		2013	
	Volume	Value (FOB)	Volume	Value (FOB)	Volume	Value (FOB)
	(MT)	US\$'000	(MT)	US\$'000	(MT)	US\$'000
January	34,804	54,158	125,613	194,897	68,002	51,623
February	39,617	73,852	54,759	73,791	46,040	35,465
March	35,356	66,726	66,110	86,329	44,708	35,050
April	96,336	179,891	96,812	124,847	36,060	27,429
May	43,301	68,913	61,917	78,921	64,247	48,713
June	31,023	60,819	67,343	75,375	35,589	27,283
July	55,047	98,875	37,292	37,219	78,250	61,103
August	35,856	59,524	45,757	46,678	23,427	18,827
September	29,346	48,949	39,536	36,501	54,076	44,783
October	45,834	64,540	67,040	80,290		
November	43,449	52,703	31,787	27,449		
December	79,832	108,805	31,956	24,536		
Total	569,801	937,755	725,922	886,836	450,399	350,276

Source: Indonesian Central Bureau of Statistic, 2013

Table 2. Philippines's Monthly Exports of Coconut Oil (in MT), 2009-2013

Month	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 ^P
January	24,579	146,971	103,074	63,517	115,186
February	36,195	74,578	67,825	42,854	61,899
March	44,620	133,675	89,110	63,649	142,991
April	32,080	130,402	97,614	58,900	45,600
May	55,555	130,921	58,743	70,680	136,985
June	82,130	106,018	32,337	79,750	59,400
July	106,014	145,564	43,011	92,600	90,800
August	63,000	99,364	32,099	82,325	50,155
September	93,882	86,800	47,970	71,922	69,980
October	112,159	109,540	69,400	80,380	54,050
November	51,358	67,709	33,100	45,060	72,750
December	124,666	49,718	32,250	30,000	54,465
Total	826,238	1,281,260	706,533	781,637	954,261

Table 3. International Prices of Selected Oils, 2011-2013 (US\$/MT)

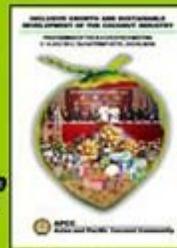
Month Years	Coconut	Soybean Oil	Palm Oil	Palm Kernel	Sunflower
	Phil/Indo	Dutch	Malaysian	Oil	Oil EU
	CIF. Rott.	FOB ex-mill	CIF Eur.	CIF. Rott.	Fob. NW. EU
2011					
January	2,038	1,374	1,281	2,120	1,373
February	2,278	1,407	1,330	2,301	1,385
March	1,925	1,307	1,180	1,977	1,389
April	2,089	1,315	1,149	1,899	1,405
May	2,097	1,294	1,159	1,958	1,411
June	1,803	1,324	1,133	1,765	1,461
July	1,645	1,341	1,092	1,360	1,425
August	1,523	1,345	1,090	1,377	1,435
September	1,305	1,305	1,056	1,268	1,203
October	1,208	1,220	994	1,085	1,120
November	1,208	1,479	1,053	1,298	1,248
December	1,445	1,204	1,027	1,367	1,190
2012					
January	1,451	1,218	1,061	1,366	1,208
February	1,411	1,255	1,106	1,362	1,249
March	1,359	1,282	1,152	1,377	1,258
April	1,348	1,310	1,181	1,395	1,324
May	1,155	1,218	1,085	1,239	1,275
June	1,058	1,180	999	1,093	1,192
July	1,087	1,243	1,020	1,086	1,262
August	994	1,180	993	988	1,300
September	978	1,319	997	996	1,320
October	905	1,179	850	882	1,244
November	820	1,150	790	800	1,243
December	768	1,174	770	817	1,268
2013					
January	840	1,101	850	780	1,269
February	867	1,194	855	850	1,275
March	815	1,119	848	830	1,221
April	800	1,101	843	828	1,201
May	818	1,083	838	818	1,227
June	912	1,082	845	820	1,228
July	874	1,003	835	840	1,178
August	866	965	803	818	974
September	926	1,013	822	914	980
October	945	968	846	900	987
November	1,009	1,191	920	1,060	1,003
December	1,268	995	911	1,150	977

Source: Oil World, 2013

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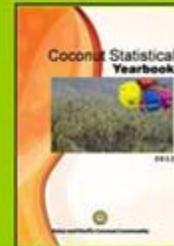
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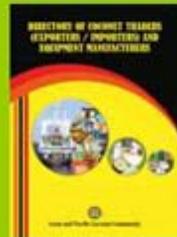
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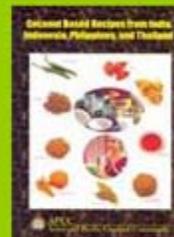
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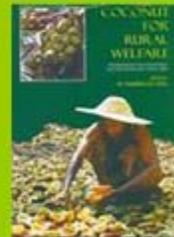
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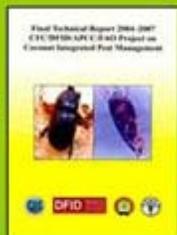
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