



# 61<sup>st</sup> ICC SESSION MEETING

18-21 November 2025  
The Berkeley Hotel Pratunam  
Bangkok, Thailand

## AGENDA NOTES



# SESSION DOCUMENTS

ICC SESSION-LXI-2025

# LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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(As of 16<sup>th</sup> November 2025)

# PROVISIONAL AGENDA

ICC SESSION-LXI-2025

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

- Item 1 : Inauguration & Opening Ceremony
- Item 2 : Adoption of the Provisional Agenda
- Item 3 : Remarks by National Ministers & Country Statements by Plenipotentiary Delegates
- Item 4 : Statement by Observer Organizations and Countries
- Item 5 : Report by Chairman, ICC Technical Working Group (TWG)
- Item 6 : Report by Chairman, ICC Scientific Advisory Committee on Health (SACH)
- Item 7 : Report Presentation - International Coconut Genetic Resources Network (COGENT)
- Item 8 : Annual Report of the Director General
- Item 9.1 : 52<sup>nd</sup> International COCOTECH Conference & Exhibition
- Item 9.2 : Major International Programs for 2026
- Item 10 : Inspector Manual for Sorting Non-Standard Coconut
- Item 11 : Establishment of a New Post – Agricultural Economics & Global Market Strategy Director
- Item 12 : New Structure of the ICC Technical Working Group (TWG)
- Item 13 : New Structure of the International Thematic Action Group 04 (In-vitro Culture and Cryopreservation)
- Item 14 : Coconut Germplasm Exchange Program
- Item 15 : New Structure of the ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting
- Item 16.1 : Appointment of New Director General (Calling Nominations)
- Item 16.2 : Recruiting a New Secretary for the Secretariat – Term Beginning October 2026
- Item 16.3 : Amendment to ICC Staff Rules and Regulations
- Item 16.4 : Amendment to ICC Rules of Procedures of the ICC
- Item 17 : Financial Agenda (Attached Separately)
- Item 18.1 : Presentation and Adoption of Report of 61<sup>st</sup> ICC Session Meeting
- Item 18.2 : Venue and Date of the 62<sup>nd</sup> ICC Session & Ministerial Meeting
- Item 19 : Closing Session



# AGENDA ITEM 1

## INAUGURATION & OPENING CEREMONY

List of Documents  
ICC SESSION-LXI-2025/001

## **Agenda Item 1: Inauguration & Opening Ceremony**

### **Purpose**

To officially open the ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting

### **Facts & considerations**

His Excellency Captain Thamanat Prompow, the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives of the Kingdom of Thailand, will deliver the inaugural address as the Chief Guest. Ministers from all member countries and other distinguished national and international dignitaries will also be in attendance.

### **Recommendation**

For the information of the delegates. The detailed program is provided separately.

**INAUGURAL PROGRAM OF 61<sup>ST</sup> ICC SESSION MEETING 2025**

**Bangkok, Thailand | Tuesday, 18 November 2025**

09:30 – 09:35	Greeting Remarks  Mourning Ceremony for Her Majesty Queen Sirikit the Queen Mother	MC
09:35 – 09:45	ICC's Capacity Building Program: Sharing Experiences by video clip presentation on Highlights of DOA Supporting Coconut Industry Development	Horticulture Research Institute (HRI), Department of Agriculture, Government of Thailand
09:45 – 09:55	Welcome Remarks	<b>MR. RAPIBHAT CHANDARASRIVONGS</b> Director General, Department of Agriculture, Government of Thailand, and Chairman of 61 <sup>st</sup> ICC Session Meeting
09:55 – 10:05	Introductory Remarks	<b>DR. JELFINA C. ALOUW</b> Director General, International Coconut Community
10:05 – 10:15	Special Remarks by National Ministers Present	<b>H. E. ELINA AKINAGA</b> Secretary, Department of Resource & Development, Government of Federated States of Micronesia  <b>H. E. FUIMAONO MAIAVA TITO ASAFO</b> Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Government of Samoa
10:15 – 10:25	Opening Remarks by Chief Guest	<b>H. E. AMIN MAYUSOH</b> Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Government of Thailand
10:25 – 10:35	Presentation of ICC plaque to 1. Pioneer Coconut Breeder/Scientist, 2. Best Coconut Farmers 3. Best Coconut Processing Industry	Chief Guest

10:35 – 10:45	Presentation of ICC Plaque to the Chief Guest & National Ministers Present	International Coconut Community
10:45 – 10:55	Joint statement by the ICC member countries	
10:55 – 11:10	Group Photo	
11:10 – 11:30	Refreshment Break	



## AGENDA ITEM 2

### ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

List of Documents  
ICC SESSION-LXI-2025/002

## **Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the Provisional Agenda**

### **Purpose**

To formally adopt the Provisional Agenda, allowing the meeting to officially proceed with its business.

### **Facts & Considerations**

1. The Director General has compiled the Provisional Agenda in compliance with the Rules of Procedures and the relevant provisions of the Articles.
2. The Session of Delegates is required to formally adopt the Provisional Agenda as the Agenda for the Meeting in accordance with Rule 3.2 of the Rules of Procedures.
3. The Chair would call for the first and second Motions, followed by a consensus by simple majority to accept and adopt the Provisional Agenda so that the meeting could proceed with its deliberations.

### **Recommendation**

Subject to any addition or amendment, adopting the Provisional Agenda for deliberations is recommended.

**TIMETABLE OF THE MEETING**

**MONDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2025**

06:00 – 18:00 Delegates Arrival and Check in at the Meeting Hotel, The Berkeley Hotel Pratunam, Bangkok

**TUESDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2025**

08:00 – 09:30 Arrival and Registration of Delegates

**Venue: Registration Desk at The Berkeley Hotel Pratunam, Bangkok**

09:30 – 11:30 **Agenda Item 1**

Inaugural Session (Refer to Separate Program)

**Venue: Mayfair Ballroom B, The Berkeley Hotel Pratunam, Bangkok**

Group Photo

12:00 – 13:00 **Networking Lunch Break**

13:00 – 16:55 **ICC SESSION MEETING**

Government of Thailand/Chair of ICC Presides as Chair of the Meeting

**Venue: Jubilee Room, The Berkeley Hotel Pratunam, Bangkok**

13:00 – 13:05 **Agenda Item 2**

Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

13:05 – 13:20 **Agenda Item 3**

Remarks by National Ministers present:

- **H. E. Elina Akinaga**, Secretary, Department of Resources & Development, Federated States of Micronesia
- **H. E. Maiava Fuimaono Tito Asafo**, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Samoa

13:20 – 16:55 **Country Statements by Plenipotentiary Delegates on Their Respective National Coconut Development Agendas. These Statements may Cover Key Topics including:**

- Relevant National Policies and Legislative Updates
- Replanting, Rehabilitation and Rejuvenation Programs
- Updates on Coconut Area and Production/Productivity
- Strategies to Improve Palm and Farm Productivity, and to Increase Farmers' Income
- Development and Promotion of New Coconut-based Products
- Exports Performance and Trade Challenges; Market Outlook
- Selling Prices and Domestic Market Trends
- Climate Resilience Strategies and Sustainable Efforts
- Youth Engagement and Labor Dynamics in the Coconut Sector
- Investment Opportunities and Enabling Business Environments
- National Regulations Governing Coconut Germplasm Exchange for Research & Varietal Improvement
- Other Relevant Information

13:20 – 13:40	<b>Côte d'Ivoire – Prof. Angui Kouassi Tehua Pascal</b> , Director General, Production and Food Security, Ministry of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Production, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
13:40 – 14:00	<b>Federated States of Micronesia – Ms. Menoleen Jacob-Oswalt</b> , Assistant Secretary, Agriculture Division, Department of Resources and Development, Federated States of Micronesia
14:00 – 14:20	<b>Fiji – Mr. Sefanaia Buitaqa Nakidakida</b> , Senior Research Officer Tree Crops Agronomy Section, Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways, Suva, Fiji
14:20 – 14:40	<b>India – Dr. Prabhat Kumar</b> , Horticulture Commissioner, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture, Chief Executive Officer, Coconut Development Board, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Kerala, India
14:40 – 14:55	<b>Networking Tea/Coffee Break</b>
14:55 – 15:15	<b>Indonesia – Mr. Natan Kambuno</b> , Director of Interregional and International Organization Negotiation, Directorate General of International Trade Negotiation, Ministry of Trade, Jakarta, Indonesia
15:15 – 15:35	<b>Jamaica – Dr. Wayne Myrie</b> , Director of Research and Development, Coconut Industry Board, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Kingston, Jamaica
15:35 – 15:55	<b>Kenya – Ms. Anne Wangu Gichuru-Gikonyo</b> , Director, Agriculture and Food Authority, Nuts and Oil Crops Directorate, Nairobi, Kenya
15:55 – 16:15	<b>Malaysia – Dato' Luqman Bin Ahmad</b> , Deputy Secretary General (Development), Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Putrajaya, Malaysia
16:15 – 16:35	<b>Papua New Guinea – Mr. Alan Aku</b> , Managing Director, Kokonas Industri Koporesen, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
16:35 – 16:55	<b>Samoa – Mr. Tanu J. Toomata</b> , Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Crops Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Apia, Samoa
19:00 – 22:30	<b>Dinner Hosted by Department of Agriculture/Horticulture Research Institute, Government of Thailand and International Coconut Community</b> <b>Venue: Mayfair Ballroom B, The Berkeley Hotel Pratunam, Bangkok</b>

**WEDNESDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2025**

**Agenda Item 3 (Continued from 18 November 2025)**

09:00 – 09:20	<b>Philippines – Ms. Ma Odessa M. Pacaul</b> , Department Manager, PCA Corporate Planning Service, Philippine Coconut Authority, Quezon City, Philippines
09:20 – 09:40	<b>Solomon Islands – Mr. Cornelius Donga</b> , Deputy Secretary Technical, Ministry of Commerce, Industries, Labour and Immigration, Honiara, Solomon Islands
09:40 – 10:00	<b>Sri Lanka – Mr. K. S. Wijayakeerthi</b> , Additional Secretary (Coconut and Allied Crops Development), Ministry of Plantation and Community Infrastructure, Sri Lanka
10:00 – 10:20	<b>Thailand – Dr. Wilawan Kraikruan</b> , Deputy Director-General, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Bangkok, Thailand

- 10:20 – 10:40 **Tonga – Mr. Elisaia Sylvester Ika**, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forests, Nuku ‘alofa, Tonga
- 10:40 – 11:00 **Networking Tea/Coffee Break**
- 11:00 – 11:20 **Vietnam – Mr. Cao Ba Dang Khoa**, General Secretary, Vietnam Coconut Association, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- Agenda Item 4**  
Statement by Observer Organizations and Observer Countries  
*Official Observers are Offered 10 Minutes of Courtesy Time to Make a Brief Presentation Relating to the Nature and Extent of Involvement in the Coconut Sector with Reference to Collaboration with the Community.*
- 11:20 – 11:30 Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM-CSSTC) – **H. E. Ambassador Diar Nurbintoro**, Director, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 11:30 – 11:40 Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD), Department of Science and Technology, Philippines – **Dr. Leilani D. Pelegrina**, Director, Crops Research Division, Laguna, Philippines
- 11:40 – 11:50 Sustainable Coconut Partnership – **Mr. Gregory Bardies**, Executive Director, Paris, France
- 11:50 – 12:00 Global Crop Diversity Trust (Crop Trust) – **Dr. Stefan Schmitz**, Executive Director, Bonn, Germany
- 12:00 – 13:00 **Networking Lunch Break**
- 13:00 – 13:10 French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) – **Dr. Francois Roger**, CIRAD Regional Director, Continental Southeast Asia, Hanoi, Vietnam
- 13:10 – 13:20 Australian Center for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) – **Professor Wendy Umberger**, Chief Executive Officer, Canberra, Australia
- 13:20 – 13:30 Green Power Development Cooperation of Japan (GPDJ) – **Mr. Motoharu Ochiai**, Director, Tokyo, Japan
- 13:30 – 13:40 Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA) – **Dr. Emiliano Fernandes Nassau Costa**, Researcher, Brasilia, DF, Brazil
- 13:40 – 13:50 **Agenda Item 5**  
Statement by **Dr. Prabhat Kumar**, Chairman, ICC Technical Working Group (TWG)
- 13:50 – 14:00 **Agenda Item 6**  
Statement by **Dr. Fabian M. Dayrit**, Chairman, ICC Scientific Advisory Committee on Health (SACH)
- 14:00 – 14:10 **Agenda Item 7**  
Report & Plan of Activities of International Coconut Genetic Resources Network (ICC-COGENT) – **Mr. A. H. N. Chinthaka**, Deputy Director General, ICC

14:10 – 14:20      **Networking Tea/Coffee Break**

**THURSDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2025**

- 09:00 – 10:00      **Agenda Item 8**  
Annual Report of the Director General  
8.1.    Update on Global Scenario of Sustainable and Resilient Coconut Sector  
8.2.    Highlights of Activities of CY 2024  
8.3.    Updated activities of CY 2025  
8.4.    Proposed Program and Activities for CY 2026
- 10:00 – 10:20      **Agenda Item 9**  
Major International Programs for 2026  
9.1.    52<sup>nd</sup> International COCOTECH Conference  
9.2.    Other Major program of ICC
- 10:20 – 10:40      **Networking Tea/Coffee Break**
- 10:40 – 11:10      **Agenda Item 10**  
Inspector Manual for Sorting Non-Standard Coconut
- 11:10 – 11:30      **Agenda Item 11**  
Establishment of a New Post – Agricultural Economics & Global Market Strategy Director
- 11:30 – 11:40      **Agenda Item 12**  
New Structure of the ICC Technical Working Group (TWG)
- 11:40 – 11:50      **Agenda Item 13**  
New Structure of the International Thematic Action Group 04
- 11:50 – 12:10      **Agenda Item 14**  
Coconut Germplasm Exchange Program
- 12:10 – 12:25      **Agenda Item 15**  
New Structure of the ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting
- 12:25 – 13:10      **Agenda Item 16**  
Administration Matters  
16.1.    Calling for Nominations for the Next Director General of ICC – Term Beginning 2027  
16.2.    Recruiting a New Secretary for the Secretariat – Term Beginning October 2026  
16.3.    Amendment to the Staff Rules and Regulations  
16.4.    Amendment to the ICC Rules of Procedures
- 13:10 – 14:10      **Networking Lunch Break**
- 14:10 – 15:00      **Agenda Item 17**  
Financial Matters  
17.1.    Audit Report of Financial Statements for CY 2024

- 17.2. Proposed ICC Secretariat Budget for CY 2026
- 17.3. Annual Membership Contributions for CY 2026
- 17.4. Outstanding Contributions

15:00 – 15:15

**Agenda Item 18**

ICC Session Matters

- 18.1. Presentation and Adoption of the 61<sup>st</sup> ICC Session
- 18.2. Venue and Date of the 62<sup>nd</sup> ICC Session & Ministerial Meeting

15:15 – 16:00

**Agenda Item 19**

Closing Session

- 19.1. Hand Over of the ICC Chair
- 19.2. Statements by Outgoing Chair and Incoming Chair
- 19.3. Vote of Thanks (Plenipotentiary Delegates Present)
- 19.4. Remarks by ICC Director General

Brief Presentation on Field Visit Scheduled on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025

**FRIDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2025**

07:00 – 18:00

Field Visit

## AGENDA ITEM 3

### REMARKS BY NATIONAL MINISTERS & COUNTRY STATEMENTS BY PLENIPOTENTIARY DELEGATES

List of Documents  
ICC SESSION-LXI-2025/003



**Agenda Item 3: Remarks by National Ministers & Country Statements by Plenipotentiary Delegates**

**Purpose**

To provide a platform for the National Ministers present to share remarks and for plenipotentiary delegates to present country statements. This session allows each member country to share updates on its national coconut industry, including progress, challenges, and future plans.

**Facts & Considerations**

1. Ministers from respective countries are at the helm of leadership of the respective sector in their country. They usually decide the status of coconut development, challenges, relevant policy support, and government resource support.
2. Country statements provide a status report addressing:
  - i. Government Policies and new legislations;
  - ii. Replanting, Rehabilitation & New Coconut Development Programs;
  - iii. Current Data on Area, Productivity, and Production;
  - iv. Strategies to Improve Farm Productivity, Increase Production and Farmers' Income;
  - v. New Product Development & Value addition initiatives
  - vi. Trade and Marketing for both domestic and exports. Market Outlook, Buying/Selling Prices, and other relevant Information.
  - vii. Import Data for Coconut Raw Materials & Processed Product
  - viii. Performance of processing industry: and
  - ix. Research and development updates.
3. Full report copies would be available in the final proceedings that would be published by the Secretariat and distributed.
4. The Chairman would, therefore, invite a remark or brief statement from each of the National Ministers, Vice Ministers, and plenipotentiary delegates present. Delegates and participants can join discussions, including question-and-answer sessions, after each presentation.

**Recommendation**

For the information of the Honorable Ministers and Delegates.

## AGENDA ITEM 4

### STATEMENT BY OBSERVER ORGANIZATIONS AND COUNTRIES

List of Documents  
ICC SESSION-LXI-2025/004

#### **Agenda Item 4: Statement by Observer Organizations and Countries**

##### **Purpose**

To formally recognize and engage with our international partners and prospective members. This platform provides a valuable opportunity for observer organizations and countries to deliver statements that inform the Community about their work, perspectives, and explore collaborative opportunities.

##### **Facts & Considerations**

###### **Statement by Observer Organizations:**

1. The Community has broadened its network of international partners and organizations that share common areas of interest, including mutual stakeholders.
2. At the session, each representative from the observer/partner organizations present will have the opportunity to deliver a concise presentation of 10 minutes focusing on their organization, its vested interest in the development of the coconut sector, and potential avenues for collaboration with the Community.
3. The organizations that will be attending are listed in **Annex I**.

##### **Recommendation**

For the information of delegates and participants.

**Annex I**

1. Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM CSSTC), Jakarta – Indonesia
2. Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD), Department of Science and Technology, Philippines, Laguna – Philippines
3. Sustainable Coconut Partnership, Paris – France
4. Global Crop Diversity Trust (Crop Trust), Bonn, Germany
5. French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), Montpellier – France
6. Australian Center for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), Canberra, Australia
7. Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA)
8. Green Power Development Corporation of Japan (GPDJ)

## AGENDA ITEM 5

### REPORT BY CHAIRMAN, ICC TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG)

List of Documents  
ICC SESSION-LXI-2025/005

**Agenda Item 5: Report by Chairman, ICC Technical Working Group (TWG)**

**Purpose**

This presentation is intended to inform the Ministers and delegates on the TWG's activities in providing technical and policy guidance to ICC for the benefit of the Community and its members.

**Facts & Considerations**

1. Technical Working Group (TWG) is a technical and policy advisory body established to assist the ICC Secretariat on an ad hoc basis. The appointment is subject to ICC's Rules of the Procedures No. 10(10.1-10.4).
2. The TWG's role is strategically important to ensure that the coconut sector develops sustainably in economic, social, and environmental aspects and to help improve the socio-economic welfare of farmers and other industry stakeholders.
3. Dr. Prabhat Kumar, the current Chair of ICC-TWG, will present the report, which includes the planned activities for 2026.

**Recommendation**

For the information of the Delegates.

## AGENDA ITEM 6

### REPORT BY CHAIRMAN, ICC SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH (SACH)

List of Documents  
ICC SESSION-LXI-2025/006

**Agenda Item 6: Report by Chairman, ICC Scientific Advisory Committee on Health (SACH)**

**Purpose**

To inform the Ministers and delegates about the latest developments and key activities of the ICC Scientific Advisory Committee on Health. The report will highlight SACH's contribution to the health and well-being of the community and its members.

**Facts & Considerations**

1. Dr. Fabian M. Dayrit is an eminent scientist and Professor of Chemistry at Ateneo de Manila University of the Philippines. He has been the distinguished Chair of the ICC Scientific Advisory Committee on Health since June 2016.
2. He will present recent research findings, policy recommendations, and collaborative initiatives. He will also provide the progress report for 2025, the proposed activities of the SACH for 2026, and the projects that will benefit the Community.

**Recommendation**

For the information of the Delegates.



## AGENDA ITEM 7

### REPORT PRESENTATION - INTERNATIONAL COCONUT GENETIC RESOURCES NETWORK (COGENT)

List of Documents  
ICC SESSION-LXI-2025/007

**Agenda Item 7: Report Presentation -International Coconut Genetic Resources Network (COGENT)**

**Purpose**

To provide Session of delegate with a comprehensive update on the progress and planned activities of COGENT within ICC framework.

**Facts & Considerations**

1. COGENT operates through a network of 39-member countries, five International Coconut Genebanks (ICGs), and 19 National Genebanks (NCGs). COGENT Activities are coordinated through the ICC—COGENT Secretariat, with technical assistance and policy guidance from the International Thematic Action groups (ITAGs) and Steering Committee, respectively. The transfer of COGENT from Bioversity International to ICC in 2019 aligns with ICC's mandate to link genetic conservation to productivity improvement, industry development and livelihood enhancement.
2. There are four International Thematic Action groups (ITAGs) that focus on:
  - a) *In-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation (ITAG-1);
  - b) Genomic & Breeding (ITAG-2);
  - c) Crop protection & Germplasm movement (ITAG-3), and
  - d) Tissue Culture and Cryopreservation (ITAG-4)

These ITAGs conduct their activities on an ad-hoc basis and offer technical guidance within their designated thematic areas as part of ICC's programs.

3. Under a tripartite agreement involving ITPGRFA - FAO, ICC, and the host countries of International Coconut Genebanks (ICGs), COGENT provides the necessary support to manage ICGs. This support aims to ensure the fulfillment of the agreement's objectives, which include but are not limited to sustainable coconut conservation and use, and facilitating coconut germplasm exchange among the countries hosting ICGs and their members countries as well as the data management.
4. The five International Coconut Genebanks (ICGs) continue their vital work in conservation. Two ICGs, the ICG-South Pacific (ICG-SP) hosted by Papua New Guinea, and the ICG-Africa and Indian Oceans (ICG-AIO) hosted by Côte d'Ivoire, are currently operating under a new treaty agreement. Efforts are underway to transition the remaining three, ICG for South Asia and the Middle East (ICG-SAME) hosted by India, the ICG for Southeast Asia and East Asia (ICG-SEA) hosted by Indonesia, and the ICG for Latin America and Caribbean (ICG-LAC) hosted by Brazil, to this new agreement framework under Article 15 of the treaty, which would help standardize operational and conservation protocols across all regions, aligning with global accepted standards for genetic resource conservation. Under article 15, ICGs are included in the Multilateral System (MLS) of access and benefit-sharing, ensuring equitable access to genetic resources for breeding and research.
5. Collaborative projects with ACIAR, CIRAD, FAO-ITGRFA, NAM-CSSTC, and Crop Trust have strengthened capacity-building efforts, data management, and research outputs, paving the

way for sustainable genetic resource utilization. Highlight is the signing of MoU between ICC and Crop Trust to collaborate in carrying out activities of mutual interest concerning the conservation, characterization, and utilization of plant genetic resources.

6. ITAGs continued to drive research efforts in conservation, breeding, crop protection, and tissue culture.
7. ITAG3 led efforts in profiling major pests and diseases, assessing risks, and coordinating with genebank host institutions to harmonize national biosecurity measures with international protocols.
8. Comprehensive appraisals of the five ICGs: ICG-SEA (Indonesia), ICG-SAME (India), ICG-LAC (Brazil), ICG-SP (Papua New Guinea), and ICG-AIO (Ivory Coast) were conducted, revealing progress in germplasm conservation, challenges in data management, lack of germplasm exchange, and the need for germplasm restoration at some sites.
9. Major advancements in ex-situ conservation strategies, including molecular characterization for better data authenticity.
10. In 2024, COGENT coordination was transferred to the ICC Secretariat, after the conclusion of Mrs. Erlene Manohar's tenure as the COGENT Coordinator.
11. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for COGENT, which was long overdue, drafted by the ICC Secretariat, was successfully adopted during the COGENT Steering committee meeting held in Surabaya, Indonesia, back to back with the 51<sup>st</sup> International COCOTECH Conference and later endorsed by the 60<sup>th</sup> ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting held in Sri Lanka.
12. During the year 2024, ICC secretariat was able to get the nominations from host countries of each ICG for the focal point and alternative focal points.
13. New Structure for the COGENT Steering Committee was endorsed during the 60<sup>th</sup> ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting held in Colombo, Sri Lanka with Dr. K. B. Hebbar, Director of the CPCRI, India as the Chairman. Subsequently, all the ITAGs were restructured to get the best possible out of the experts in relevant thematic areas, in early 2025.
14. In 2025, the major program conducted was the *International Workshop on Strengthening Coconut Genebanks for a Climate Resilient and Sustainable Future*, which was successfully concluded from 02 – 05 September at the CPCRI - India, Kasaragod, Kerala, India co-hosted by the Indian Council of Agriculture (ICAR) – Central Plantation Crop Research Institute (CPCRI).
15. Mr. A. H. N. Chinthaka, Deputy Director General of ICC will present the progress report for 2024, updated program of 2025 and the planned activities of the ICC - COGENT program for the year 2026.

## **Recommendation**

For the information of the Delegates.

## AGENDA ITEM 8

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

List of Documents  
ICC SESSION-LXI-2025/008

## **Agenda Item 8: Annual Report of the Director General**

### **Purpose**

To inform the Session of Delegates about the activities undertaken by the Secretariat and seek approval for the proposed program for the upcoming year.

### **Facts & Considerations**

1. Each year a report is tabled at the Session of Delegate by the Director General, providing information on the activities undertaken by the Secretariat during the year under consideration.
2. The Annual Report is now a fully published report since 2014 as required by relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedures.
3. The report includes:
  - 3.1. Update on Global Scenario of Sustainable and Resilient Coconut Sector
  - 3.2. Highlights of Activities of CY 2024
  - 3.3. Update of Activities of CY 2025
  - 3.4. Proposed Program and Activities for CY 2026
4. The Director General will provide a presentation of the Global Scenario of the coconut sector.

### **Recommendation**

- For the information of the delegates for 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3
- The session is requested to deliberate on and adopt the proposed program and activities for 2026 (3.4) to guide the Secretariat's work.

## **GLOBAL SCENARIO OF SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT COCONUT SECTOR**

### **1. Introduction**

The coconut palm (*Cocos nucifera* L.) is cultivated across approximately 12.2 million hectares in over 90 countries, with more than 110 countries consuming coconut products globally. Among these, the 21 member nations of the International Coconut Community (ICC) account for 87.16% of the total coconut-growing area and produce 86.65% of the global coconut supply. The coconut is often referred to as the "tree of life" because it provides essential resources, including food, health supplements, materials for construction, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and eco-friendly products. Coconut products are highly valued for their versatility, with increasing demand driven by their antimicrobial properties and functional uses.

In 2024, coconut water emerged as the largest coconut product traded globally, surpassing coconut oil (CNO), which had been the leading export for many years. Alongside coconut water, products such as virgin coconut oil (VCO), coconut milk, coconut flour, oleochemicals, activated carbon, biofuels, and coir-based biomaterials have gained prominence in international markets. The market for these products continues to grow, reflecting a global trend toward health-conscious, sustainable, and natural food and industrial solutions. However, the sector is also facing challenges, particularly concerning raw material shortages. These shortages require urgent action to address the root causes and ensure the sustainability of coconut production to meet both domestic and global demand.

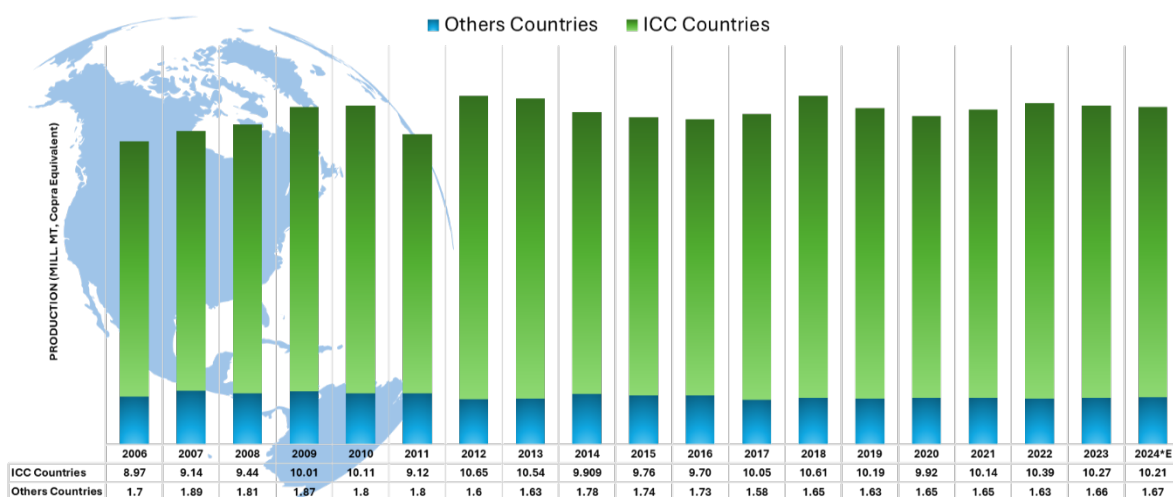
The export market for coconut products is projected to reach 15.10 million metric tons (MT) in 2024, continuing a strong upward trajectory with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10.04% from 2016 to 2024. The total export value is estimated at USD 14.19 billion, with coconut water leading the market at USD 5.73 billion. This is followed by kernel-based products at USD 5.19 billion, and shell-based and husk-based products at USD 0.95 billion and USD 0.64 billion, respectively. These figures demonstrate the growing consumer interest in natural, health-conscious beverages, and coconut-based materials, with coconut water experiencing particularly robust demand in global markets.

### **2. Production**

In 2024, global coconut production reached 11.83 million metric tons (MT) in copra equivalent, with ICC member countries contributing 10.25 million MT, or 86.65% of the total global output. This production has remained relatively stable over the years, though several challenges continue to affect the sector. These challenges include the aging of coconut palms, pests, diseases, adverse climatic conditions, and land conversion to other agricultural uses. In fact, approximately 19.87% of coconut palms are considered unproductive due to senility, highlighting the critical need for replanting efforts to ensure the sustainability of coconut cultivation.

The Philippines remains the largest coconut-growing country within the ICC, followed by Indonesia and India. In terms of productivity, Jamaica leads with 10,090 nuts per hectare per year, followed by India (9,018 nuts/ha/year), and Guyana (7,444 nuts/ha/year). Papua New Guinea ranks first in both coconut area and production within the Pacific region, while Samoa and Vanuatu follow closely behind. Despite these contributions, the coconut sector faces challenges such as low productivity and land conversion. To address these issues, recommendations include mass propagation of planting materials, replanting of unproductive

palms, integrated pest and disease management, and the development of early-bearing, high-yield coconut varieties. Additionally, policy support to prevent land conversion and strategies for enhancing agricultural practices are critical for maintaining the long-term viability of the coconut industry.



E: estimated figures

Source: ICC

**Figure 1. Global Coconut Production (million MT, copra equivalent), 2007-2024**

The coconut sector's challenges include but are not limited to low productivity and production due to the senility of the palms, pests, diseases, land conversion, low quality of planting materials, and low maintenance. Recommendation to address the issues may include:

- Mass propagation of planting materials, replanting of unproductive palms, integrated pests and disease management, development of early bearing, high yielding coconut varieties, promotion of good and acceptable agricultural practices, and policy support to prevent land conversion for other uses.
- Intercropping and livestock integration, capacity building, and technology transfer
- Research and development to get technically viable, economically feasible, socially accepted and environmentally safe technologies. These include improved varieties, micropropagation techniques, IPM technology, efficient and improved machinery, and digitalization.
- Expand networks with national and international organizations and institutions to support the sustainable coconut sector, research & development, capacity building, transfer technology, and implementation of projects and programs for the sustainable coconut sector.

**Table 1. Country Status, 2024**

Country	Coconut Area (Ha.)	Productivity (Nuts/Ha/Year)	Productivity (MT/Ha/Year)	% Age of Senile Palms	Estimated senile palms *)
Côte d'Ivoire	40,928	3,869	0.74	50%	2,455,680
Fed. Stat. Micronesia	18,041	4,357	0.83	50%	1,082,436

Fiji	61,336	4,007	0.67	50%	3,680,160
Guyana	12,840	7,444	1.42	50%	770,427
India	2,328,000	8,674	1.11	20%	55,872,000
Indonesia	3,276,989	4,508	0.86	12%	46,126,897
Jamaica	17,000	9,853	1.64	3%	61,200
Kenya	77,700	3,574	0.68	27%	2,517,480
Kiribati	28,519	5,168	0.87	50%	1,711,147
Malaysia	79,500	7,923	1.58	35%	3,339,000
Marshall Islands	7,000	5,059	1.02	50%	420,000
Papua New Guinea	94,974	10,666	1.78	5%	810,150
Philippines	3,638,795	4,025	0.86	10%	43,665,536
Samoa	20,102	2,678	0.53	50%	1,206,120
Solomon Islands	68,299	1,464	0.29	80%	6,556,704
Sri Lanka	470,986	6,849	1.25	20%	11,303,672
Thailand	134,000	4,968	1.24	50%	8,040,000
Timor Leste	11,393	2,394	0.51	50%	683,593
Tonga	26,290	2,164	0.43	60%	1,892,880
Vanuatu	88,541	3,422	0.65	50%	5,312,433
Vietnam	171,970	7,452	1.73	20%	4,127,272
Other Countries	1,213,708	5,705	0.71	50%	72,822,458
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,886,910</b>	<b>116,226</b>	<b>21.40</b>		<b>274,457,244</b>

\*) Estimated no. of trees is 120/ha

### 3. Global Export Trend

In 2024, the global coconut export market reached 18.35 million metric tons (MT), a growth trajectory that reflects the increasing demand for coconut-based products. The compound annual growth rate (CAGR) from 2016 to 2024 is 11.4%, driven primarily by the rising popularity of coconut water. The total export value of coconut products in 2024 is estimated at USD 19.61 billion, with coconut meat/kernel-based products leading the market at USD 7.69 billion, followed by coconut water at USD 7.50 billion. Shell-based and husk-based products are estimated to generate USD 0.96 billion and USD 0.65 billion, respectively.

This trend highlights the ongoing shift in consumer preferences towards healthier, natural alternatives. Coconut water, in particular, has seen a dramatic rise in global trade, surpassing coconut oil as the most exported coconut product. Over the coming years, the coconut industry



is expected to continue benefiting from these shifts, with growing demand for functional, plant-based products offering opportunities for expansion. Despite challenges, such as raw material shortages, the coconut sector remains poised for growth, with demand for both food and industrial products continuing to increase across various markets.

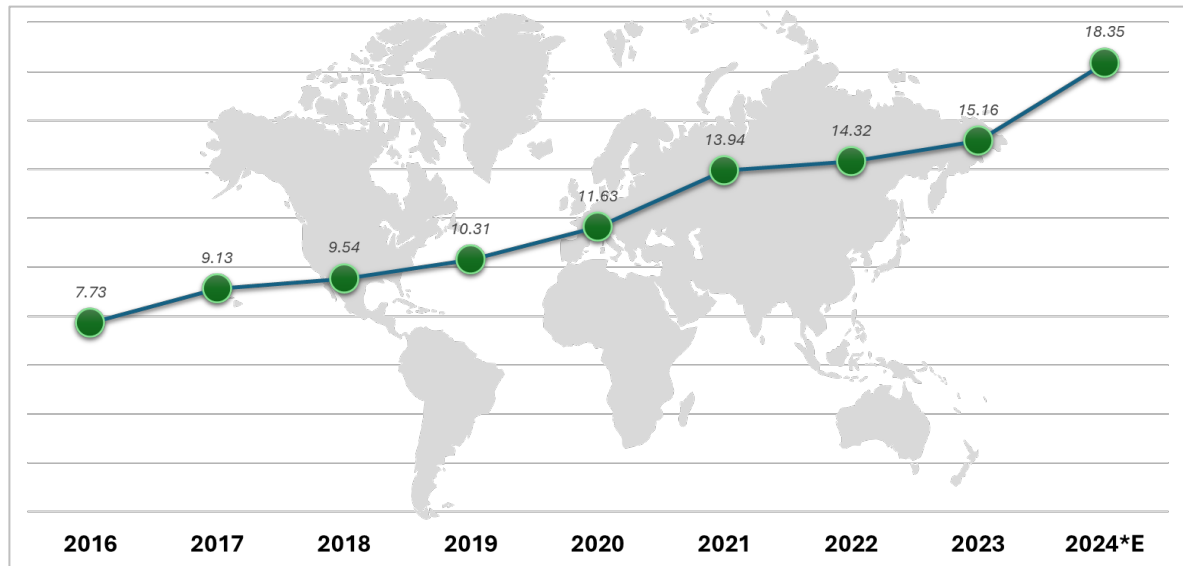


Figure 2. Global Export Trend (Million MT)

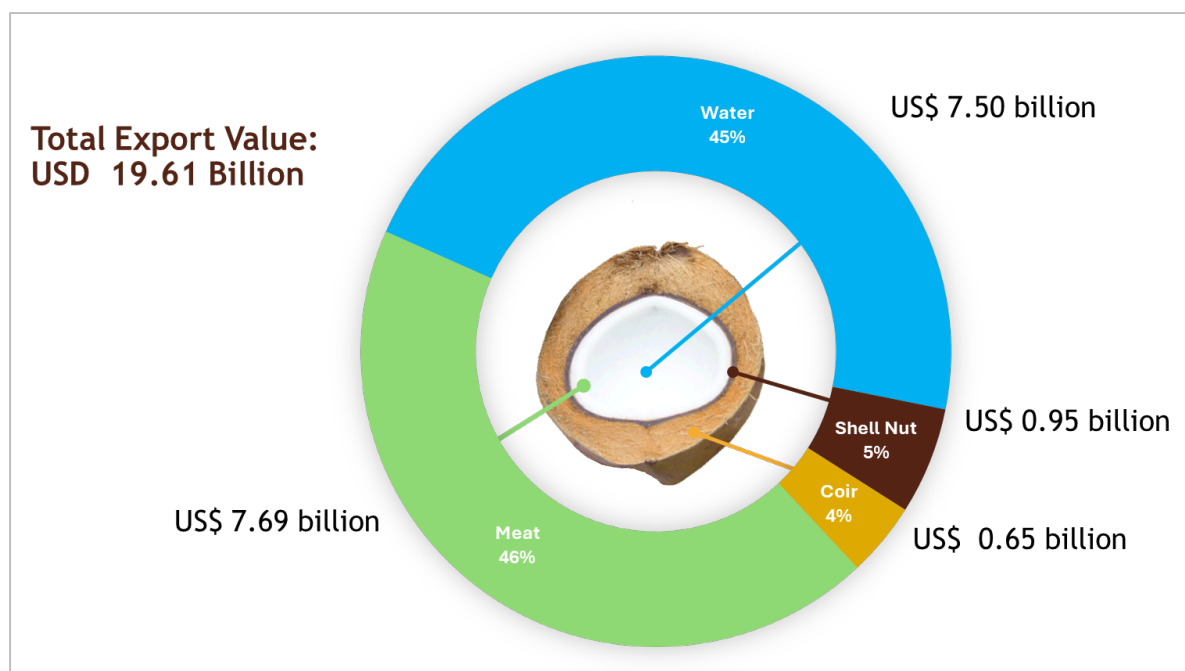


Figure 3. Global Export Value, 2024

#### 4. Major Coconut Products Traded

##### 4.1. Coconut Oil (CNO)

Coconut oil (CNO) continues as one of the major coconut products traded globally. CNO is an edible oil extracted from the kernel (meat) or dry meat (copra). It is also further processed by the oleochemical industries into higher economic value products such as pharmaceutical and cosmetic products, soaps, detergents, surfactants, and biofuel (Figure 4).

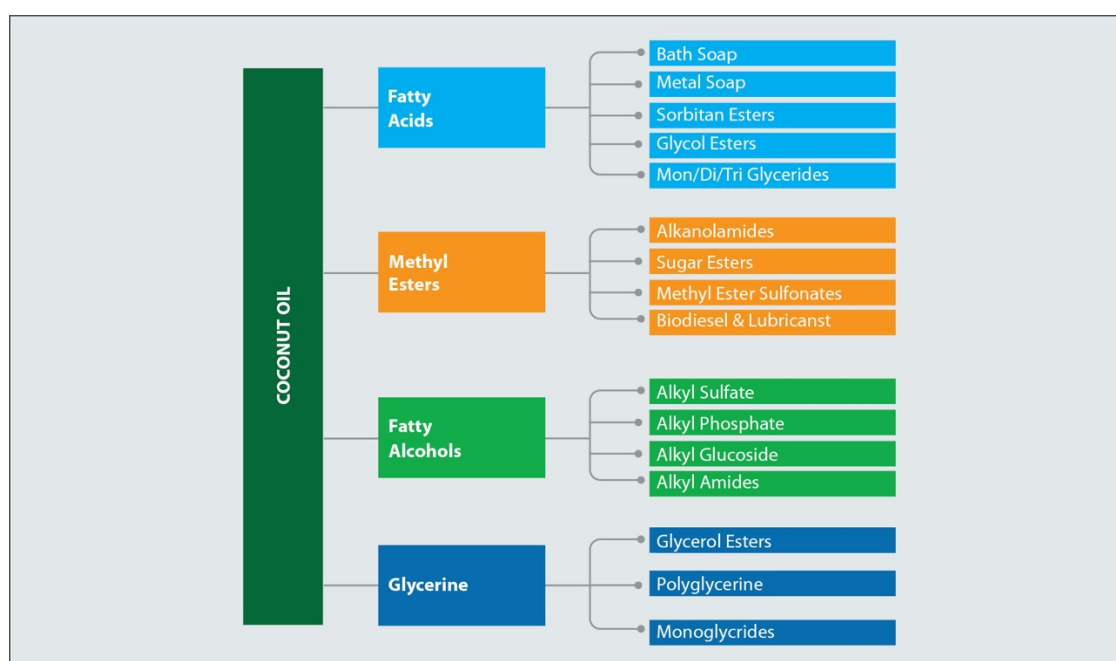


Figure 4. Oleochemicals Value Addition

Coconut oil (CNO) continues to be a key player in the global coconut product market, though it experienced a decline in production in 2024. Global coconut oil production decreased by 1.6%, dropping to 3.499 million metric tons (MT) due to reduced coconut production. This decline has been attributed to various factors, including a shortage of copra, which is the raw material for oil extraction. Despite this reduction, the Philippines and Indonesia remain the top producers of CNO, with the Philippines contributing 1.567 million tons in 2024, while Indonesia's production is estimated to reach 831 thousand tons.

Table 2. CNO Production ('000 MT), 2018-2024

Country	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Philippines	1,341	1,621	1,177	1,297	1,613	1,492	1,567
Indonesia	1,005	779	733	777	886	893	831
Malaysia	47	47	50	53	55	56	55
Papua New Guinea	-	32	31	32	35	44	40

India	635	530	506	516	481	558	503
Vietnam	10	36	35	37	41	41	41
Other Countries	418	418	440	467	499	472	462
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,456</b>	<b>3,463</b>	<b>2,972</b>	<b>3,179</b>	<b>3,610</b>	<b>3,556</b>	<b>3,499</b>

In 2024, global coconut oil exports saw a significant increase, reaching 2,889 thousand metric tons, up from 2,407 thousand metric tons in 2023. The Philippines led the surge with 1,643 thousand metric tons, driven by strong demand in markets like the U.S., Netherlands, and Malaysia. However, Indonesia's exports fell to 656 thousand metric tons, primarily due to increased domestic demand and supply constraints, while Malaysia's exports dropped to 121 thousand metric tons. This growth in 2024 reflects the ongoing recovery of the coconut oil market after the pandemic disruptions. Looking ahead to 2025, the market is expected to continue expanding, with a projected growth rate of 5.82%, fueled by increasing demand for plant-based oils in food and personal care sectors. The Philippines will likely maintain its dominant position, though challenges like aging coconut trees may impact long-term supply stability. Indonesia's role remains crucial, and Malaysia may stabilize its exports, provided it addresses production issues. The market will continue to be influenced by climatic conditions, global demand trends, and domestic policies.

**Table 3. CNO Export ('000 MT), 2018-2024**

<b>Country</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Philippines	951	1,239	840	881	1,252	1,090	1,643
Indonesia	678	611	577	611	686	723	656
Malaysia	122	223	203	187	135	166	121
Papua New Guinea	22	21	33	36	44	31	37
India	7	8	7	14	28	16	20
Vietnam	14	8	7	10	11	8	14
Other Countries	492	260	163	164	258	373	110
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,286</b>	<b>2,370</b>	<b>1,830</b>	<b>1,903</b>	<b>2,414</b>	<b>2,407</b>	<b>2,601</b>

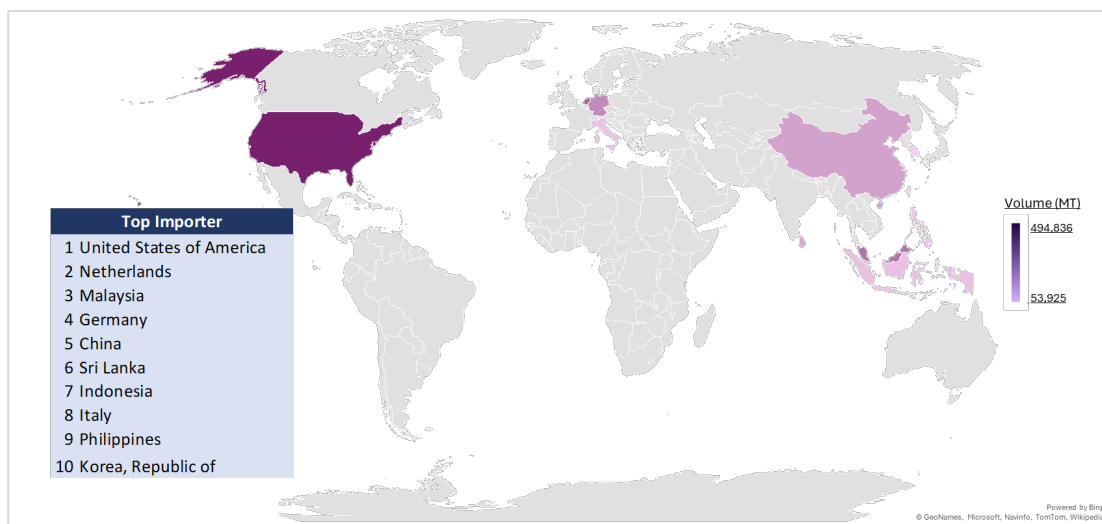


Figure 5. Importers of CNO, 2024

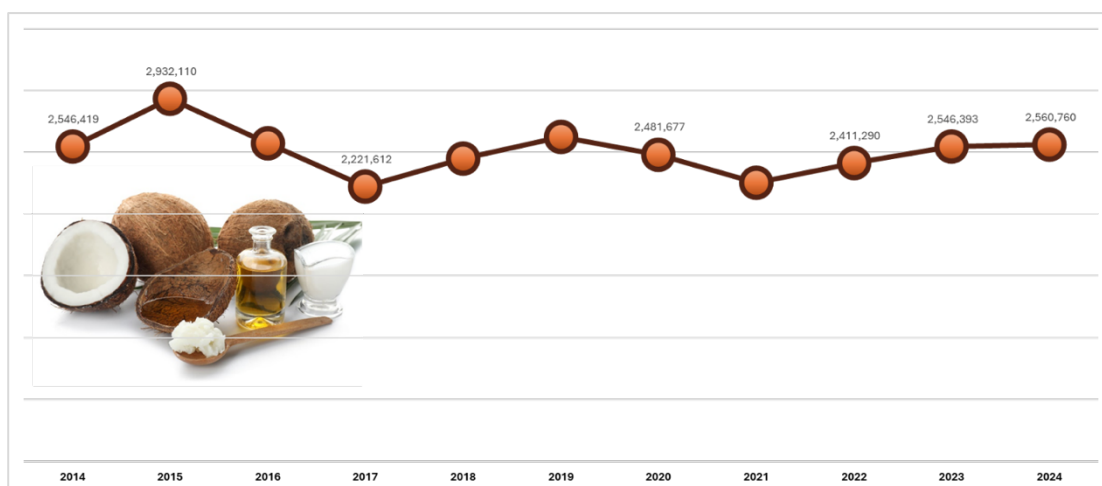
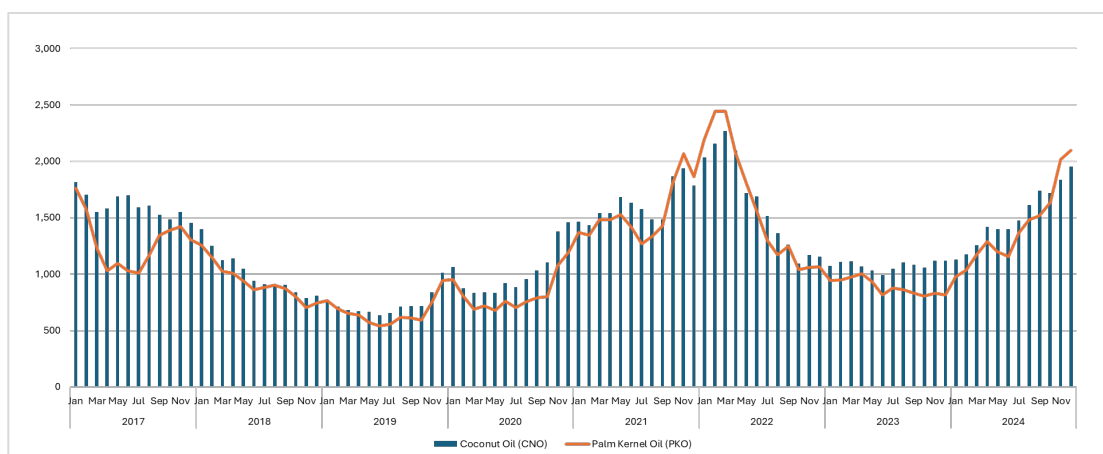
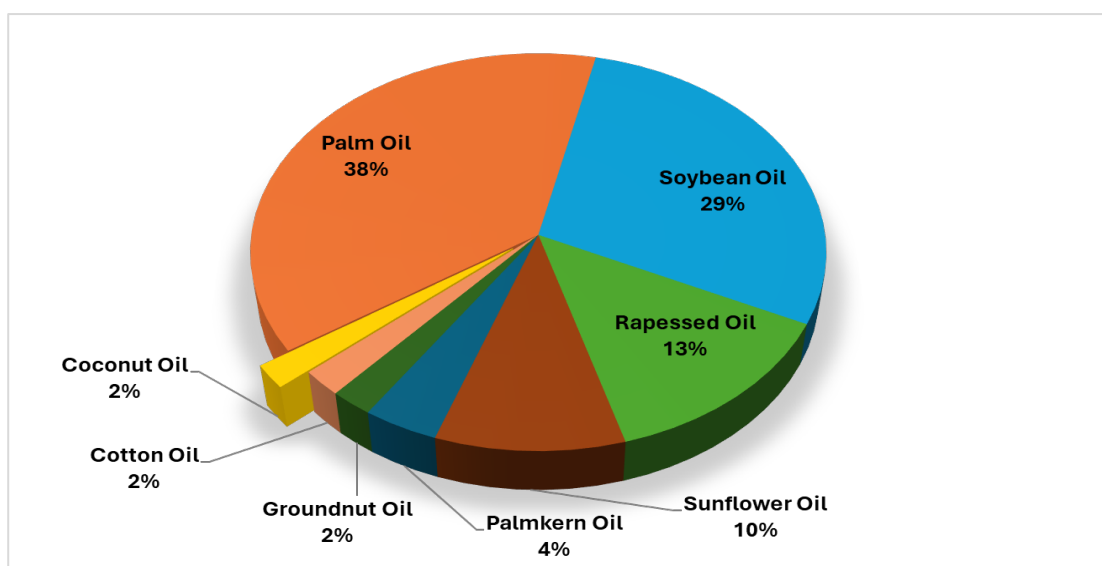


Figure 6. Global Import of CNO (MT), 2014-2024

In 2024, coconut oil prices demonstrated a strong and steady upward trajectory, starting at USD 1,126 per metric ton in January and peaking at USD 1,953 by December—representing a remarkable 73% increase over the year. This surge was driven by a combination of constrained supply, particularly from Indonesia, and renewed global demand, especially from the food and personal care sectors. Meanwhile, palm kernel oil prices also rose significantly from USD 978 to USD 2,099 during the same period, narrowing the historical price spread between the two oils in mid-year but widening again by year-end. The sharp rise in coconut oil prices in the second half of 2024 can be attributed to lower stock availability in key producing countries and heightened buying interest ahead of anticipated supply shortages. These developments suggest a tightening market, pushing buyers to secure contracts at higher premiums, with expectations of continued volatility entering 2025 unless production rebounds or demand eases.

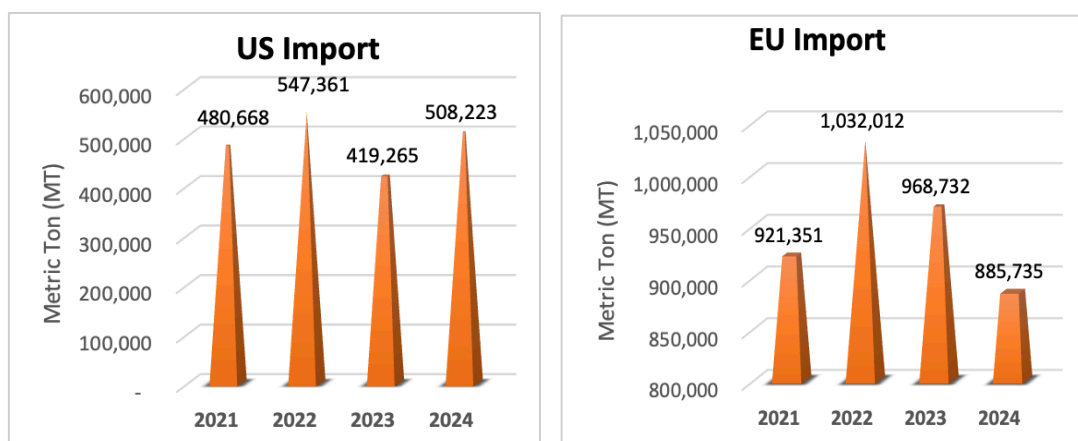


**Figure 7. The CNO Price Trend (US\$/MT), 2017-2024**



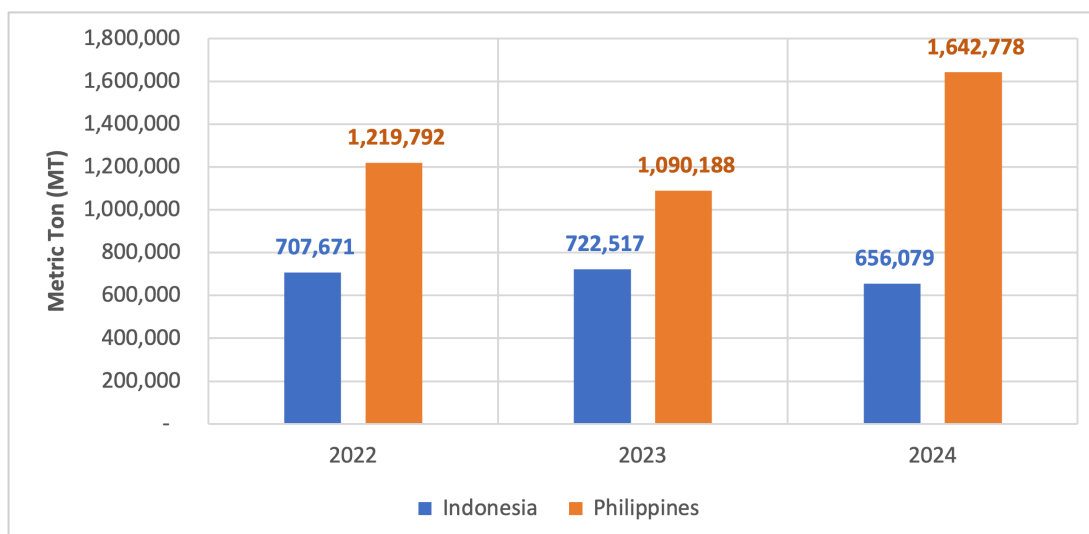
**Figure 8. Production of Coconut Oil vs. Major Vegetable Oils, 2024**

In 2024, coconut oil import trends between Europe and the United States diverged significantly. The United States increased its coconut oil imports from 419 thousand metric tons in 2023 to 496 thousand metric tons in 2024, marking an 18% rise. This sharp growth suggests robust demand recovery in food manufacturing, cosmetics, and possibly bio-based industrial sectors, even amid rising prices. In contrast, the EU-27 slightly reduced its imports from 654 to 634 thousand metric tons, signaling a possible shift to alternative vegetable oils, efficiency improvements in usage, or restrained demand amid economic uncertainty. This contrast highlights the U.S. as a growing demand center for coconut oil in 2024, while Europe appeared more cautious, possibly due to sustainability regulations or higher energy and production costs impacting downstream industries.



Source: US Census Bureau and ITC

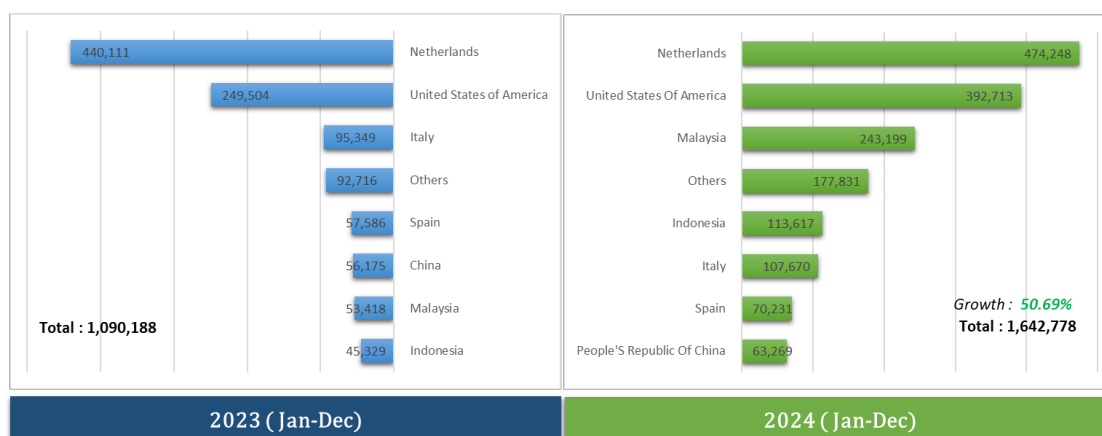
**Figure 9. Demand for CNO, 2021-2024**



Source: UCAP, PSA -Philippines Statistics Authority and BPS Statistics-Indonesia

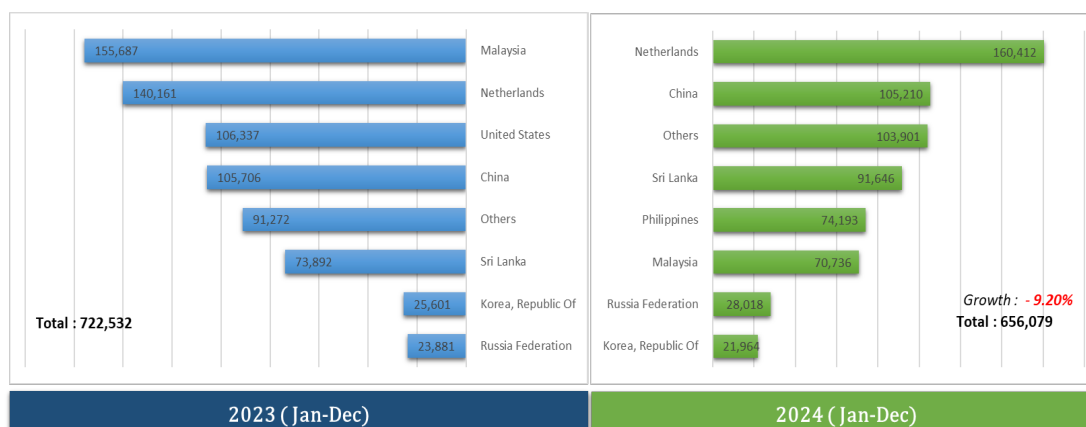
**Figure 10. Export Volume of CNO from the Philippines and Indonesia (MT), 2021-2023**

The Philippines primarily exports coconut oil (CNO) to Netherlands, the USA, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Italy. In 2024, the Philippines' CNO export volume from January to December skyrocketed by 50.68% compared to the same period in 2023 (Figure 11). Indonesia's CNO exports are mainly directed to, the Netherlands, China, Sri Lanka, Philippines and Malaysia (Figure 12). In 2024, Indonesian CNO exports to the Netherlands increased by over 14.4%, and exports to Sri Lanka rose from 74 thousand tons to around 92 thousand tons. However, CNO exports from Indonesia to Malaysia dropped by 54.6% from January to December 2024, compared to the same period in 2023.



Source: UCAP & PSA -Philippines Statistics Authority

**Figure 11. Export Destination of CNO from the Philippines (MT), 2023-2024**



Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia

**Figure 12. Export Destination of CNO from Indonesia (MT), 2023-2024**

**Table 4. Supply and Demand of CNO ('000MT), 2024**

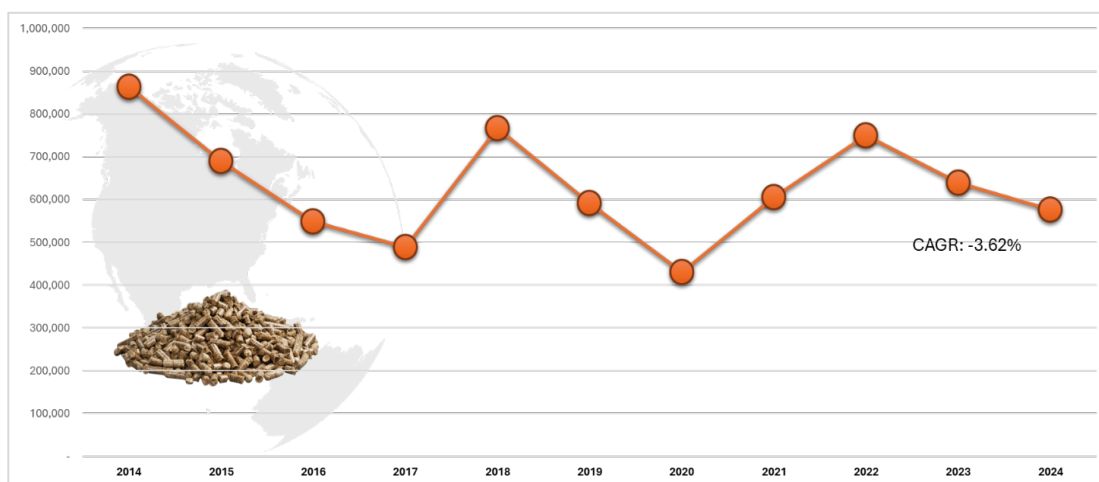
Item	Philippines	Indonesia	Malaysia	Vietnam	India
Production	1,748	831	55	41	503
Export	1,643	656	121	14	20
Import	3	80	286	2	0
Domestic Cons.*)	108	255	220	29	483

\*) including stocks

## 4.2. Copra Meal

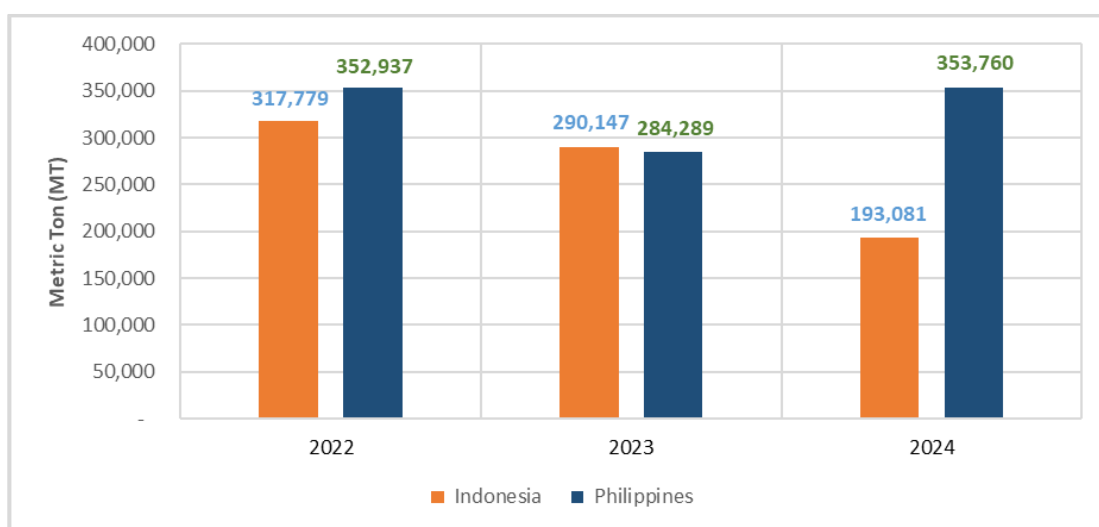
Copra meal, a by-product of coconut oil extraction, continues to play a crucial role in global animal feed markets. It is a significant source of protein for livestock, especially for dairy farming. The Philippines and Indonesia remain the primary exporters of copra meal, accounting for over 90% of the global supply. However, the global market for copra meal has shown a declining trend in recent years, with a projected compound annual growth

rate (CAGR) of -3.62% from 2014 to 2024. The stagnation in the market can be attributed to shifting preferences and the competition from other protein sources.



**Figure 13. Global Export of Copra Meal (MT), 2014-2024**

In 2024, copra meal exports from the Philippines and Indonesia are expected to remain stable, as these countries continue to supply the majority of the global demand. Key export markets for copra meal include South Korea, India, and China, where it is used in animal feed production. However, the market for copra meal faces challenges due to fluctuating demand and competition from alternative sources of protein. While production remains strong, the market is not expected to experience significant growth over the next several years.



**Figure 14. Export Volume of Copra Meal from The Philippines and Indonesia (MT), 2022 – 2024**



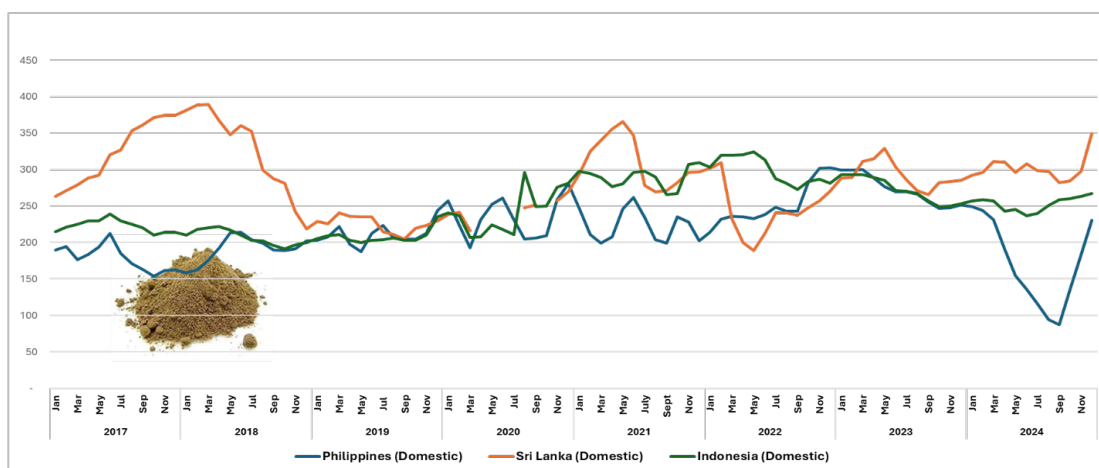
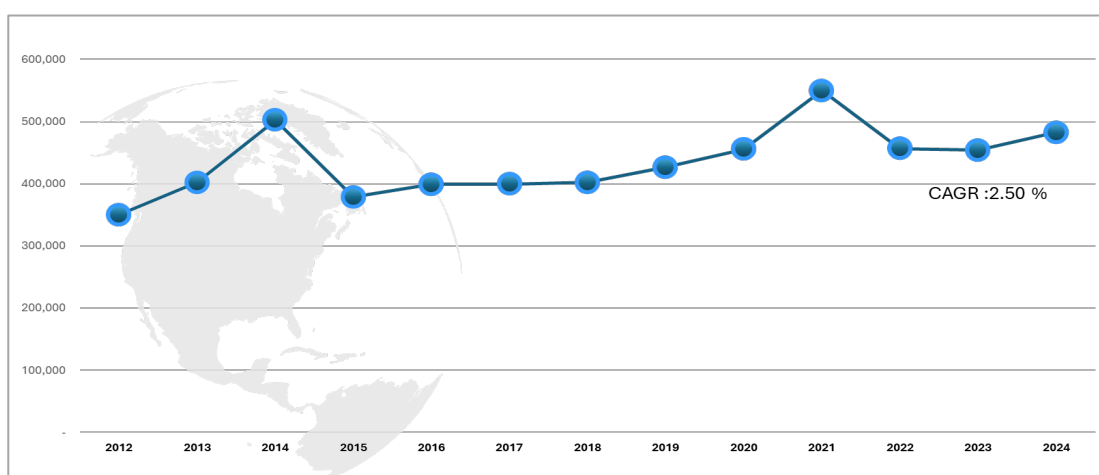


Figure 15. Price Trend of Copra Meal (USD/MT), 2017 –2024

#### 4.3. Desiccated Coconut (DC)

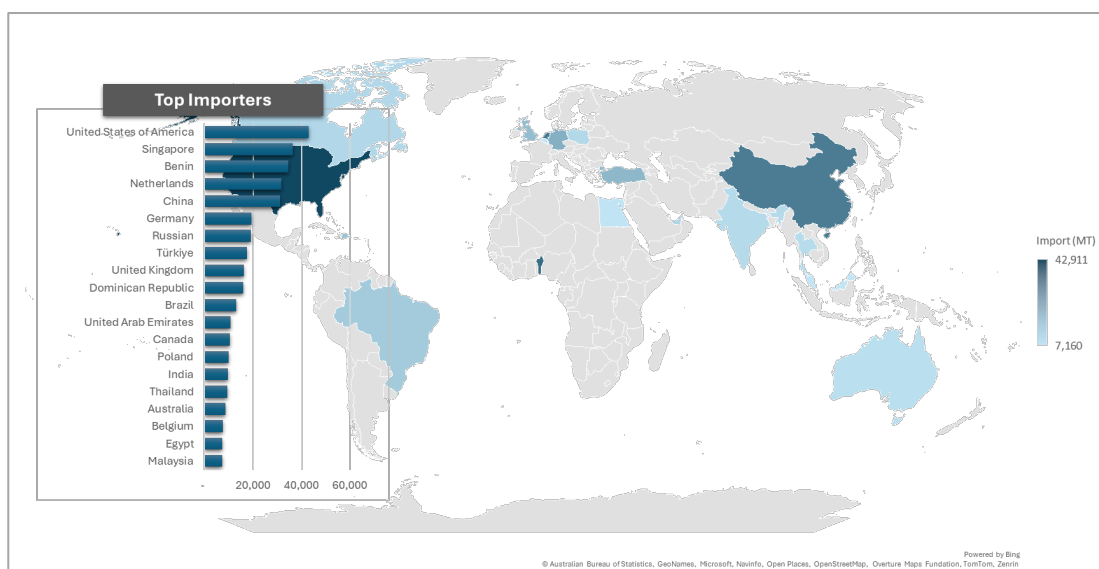
Desiccated coconut (DC) is produced from grated and dehydrated coconut meat, primarily utilized in the bakery and confectionery industries. As a fully developed coconut product, DC is manufactured in several ICC member countries. The global demand for desiccated coconut exceeds 400,000 metric tons (MT) annually, with more than 100 foreign markets participating. From 2012 to 2024, global exports of DC experienced a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 2.50% (Figure 16).

In 2024, the Philippines and Indonesia are expected to maintain their dominant positions in the export of DC, with major destinations including the USA, China, the Netherlands, Turkey, and Australia. However, the decrease in prices and slight fluctuations in export volumes indicate that the DC market is facing challenges, particularly in maintaining demand at the levels seen in previous years. Despite these challenges, DC remains an important product in the global bakery sector, with steady demand continuing to support exports from the leading coconut-producing countries.



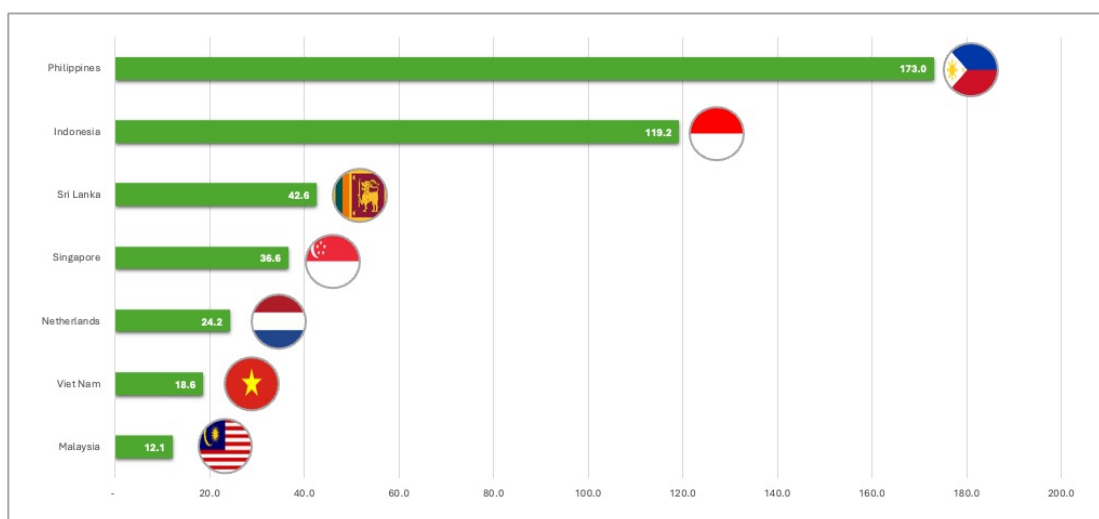
Source: ICC & ITC

Figure 16. Global Exports of Desiccated Coconut (MT), 2012-2024



Source: ITC

**Figure 17. Top Importers of Desiccated Coconut, 2024**



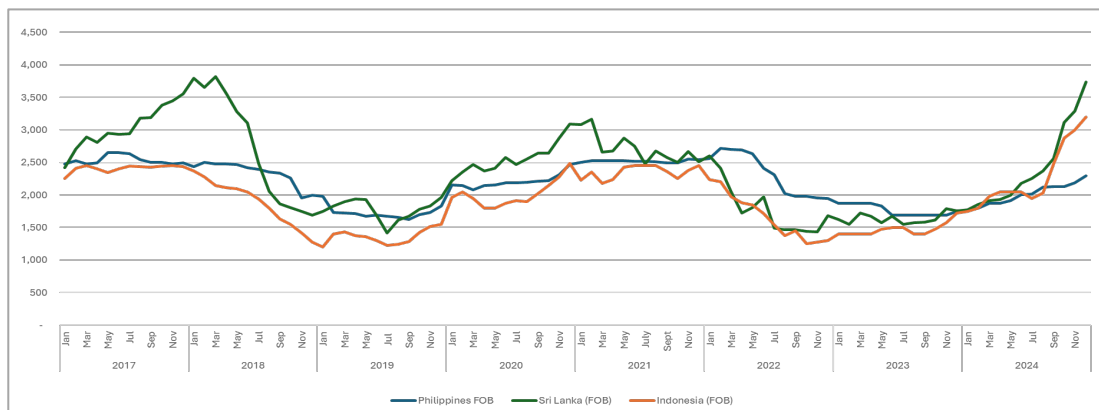
Source: ITC

**Figure 18. Top Exporters of Desiccated Coconut (\*000 MT), 2024**

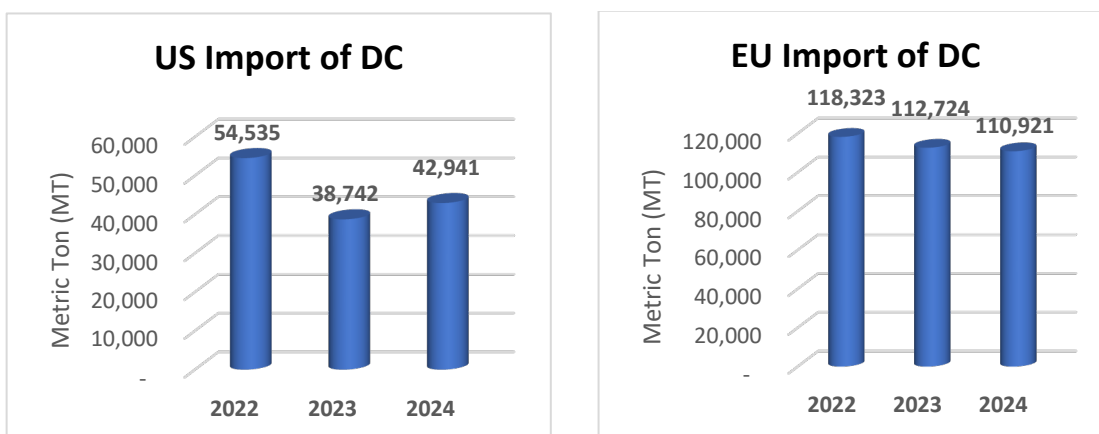
In 2024, desiccated coconut prices surged sharply across key producers—the Philippines, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka—primarily driven by a significant shortage of supply caused by El Niño-induced declines in coconut production. The Philippines saw prices rise from USD 1,764/MT in January to USD 2,278/MT in December, while Indonesia's prices more than doubled, jumping from USD 1,771/MT to USD 3,200/MT, reflecting severe domestic supply tightness. Sri Lanka, traditionally commanding higher prices, experienced an even steeper increase from USD 1,750/MT to USD 3,733/MT, underscoring the global impact of the production shock. The persistent dry weather conditions associated with El Niño led to lower nut yields and disrupted harvest cycles, constraining exports throughout the year. With limited supply available, particularly in the second half of 2024, and continued strong demand from global food and confectionery sectors, prices escalated rapidly, peaking in

Q4. This upward pressure signals a structurally tighter market outlook entering 2025 unless weather conditions improve and production rebounds.

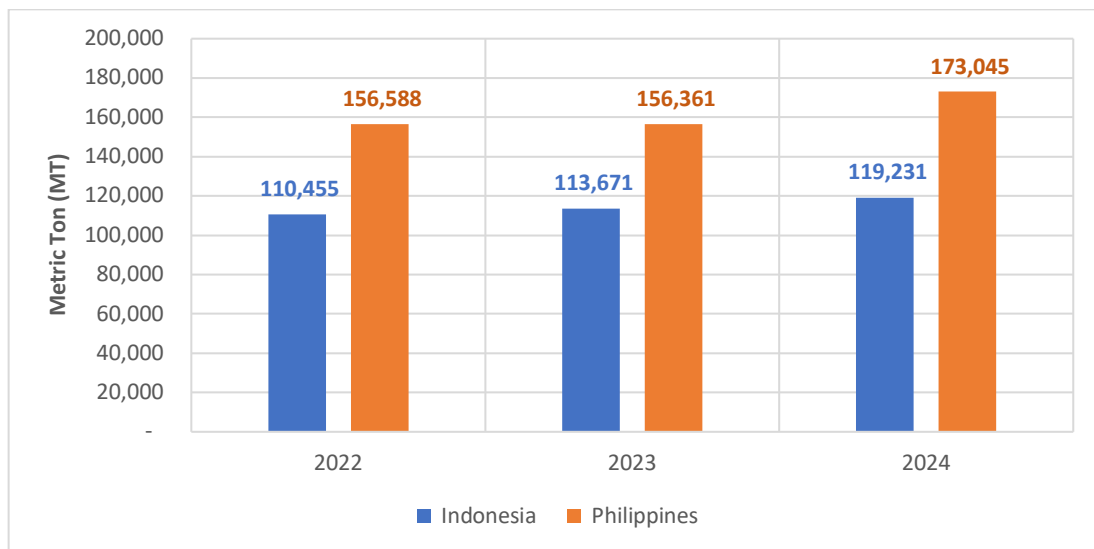
Amid the tight supply DC exports from the Philippines and Indonesia increased by about 10.73% and 4.89% respectively (Figure 21). The primary export destinations for DC from the Philippines include the USA, the Netherlands, China, and Russia (Figure 22), while Indonesia mainly exports DC to Singapore, Russia, and Germany (Figure 23).



**Figure 19. Price of Desiccated Coconut (USD/MT), 2017-2024**

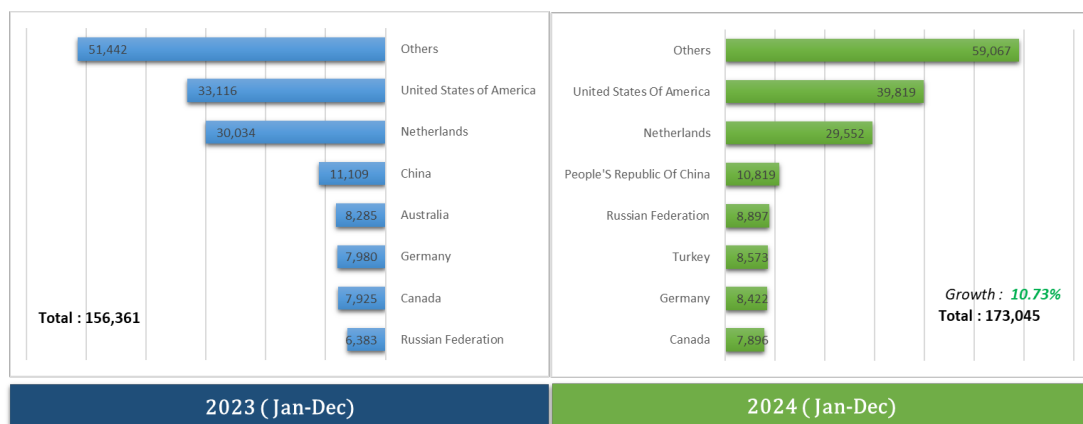


**Figure 20. US and European Union Imports of Desiccated Coconut, 2022-2024**



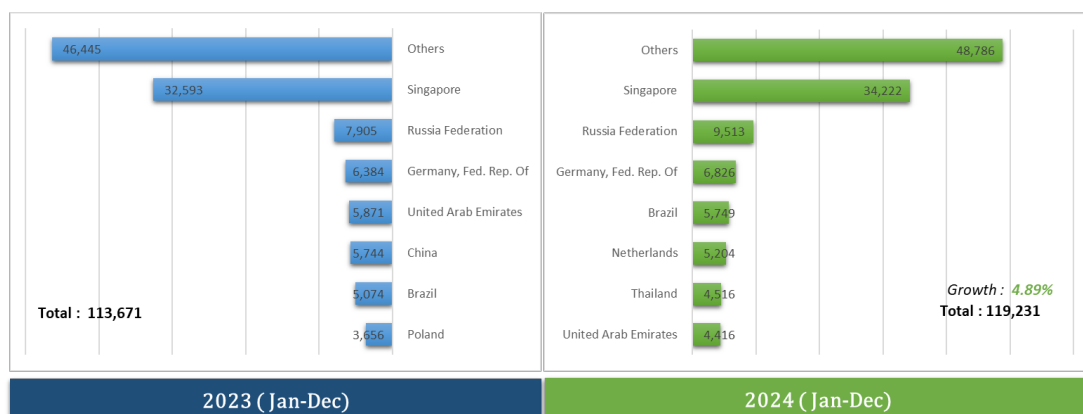
Source: UCAP and BPS-Statistics Indonesia

**Figure 21. Export volume of DC from the Philippines & Indonesia (MT), 2022 – 2024**



Source: UCAP

**Figure 22. Export Destination of DC from The Philippines (MT), 2023-2024**



Source: BPS-Statistics Indonesia

**Figure 23. Export Destination of DC from Indonesia (MT), 2023-2024**

**Table 5. Supply and Demand of DC, 2024 ('000MT)**

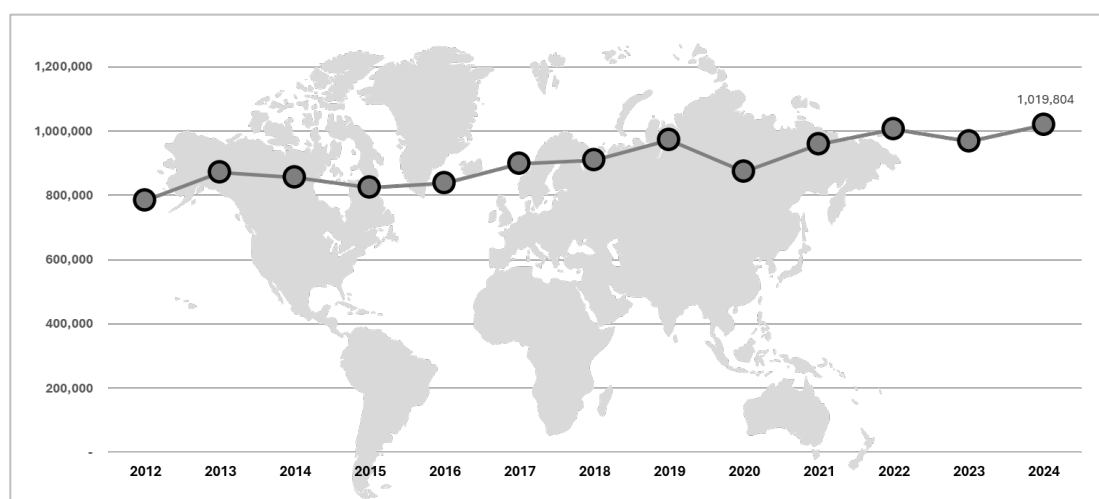
Item	Philippines	Indonesia	Malaysia	Sri Lanka	Vietnam
Production	179	157	33	30	179
Export	173	119	43	19	173
Import	0	3	0	2	0
Domestic Cons.*)	6	41	n.a.	13	6

\*) including stocks

#### 4.4. Coconut Shell Charcoal and Activated Carbon

Coconut shell charcoal is primarily used in the production of activated carbon and briquettes, with the Philippines, Indonesia, India, and Sri Lanka being the leading exporters of these products. Activated carbon, which is derived from coconut shells, is widely used for water purification, medicine, and sugar refining, among other applications. The global market for activated carbon is expected to grow modestly, with continued demand driven by its applications in water treatment and air filtration.

The Philippines and Indonesia remain the primary exporters of coconut shell-based products, including activated carbon, with key importers such as Japan, China, and the United States. In 2024, the Philippines and Sri Lanka are expected to maintain their positions as the leading exporters of activated carbon. The market for coconut shell charcoal and activated carbon has been steady, with moderate growth projected in the coming years. Despite competition from other materials, coconut shell-based activated carbon continues to be valued for its effectiveness and sustainability.



Source: ITC

**Figure 25. Global Imports of Coconut Shell Charcoal based Activated Carbon 2012 – 2024 (MT)**

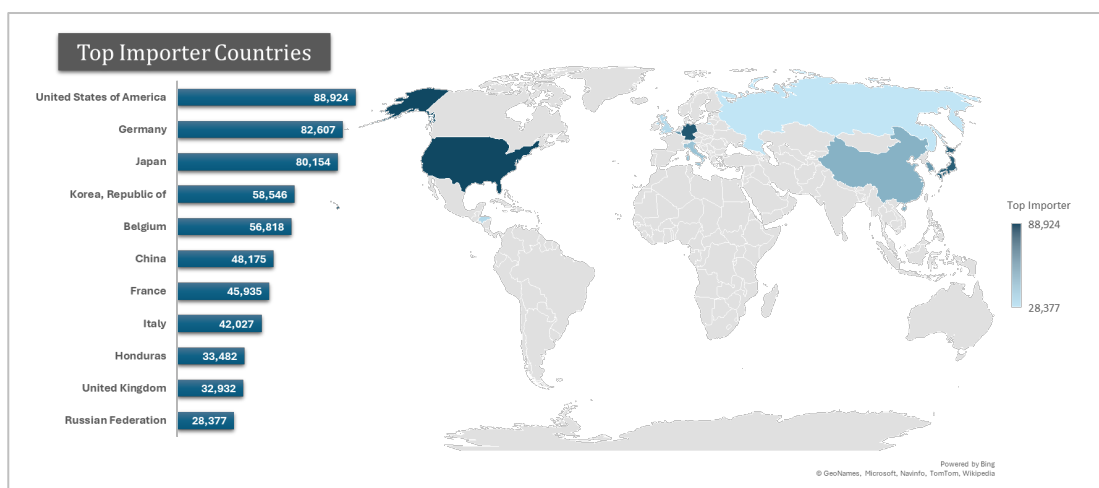


Figure 26. Top Importers of Activated Carbon, 2024 (MT)

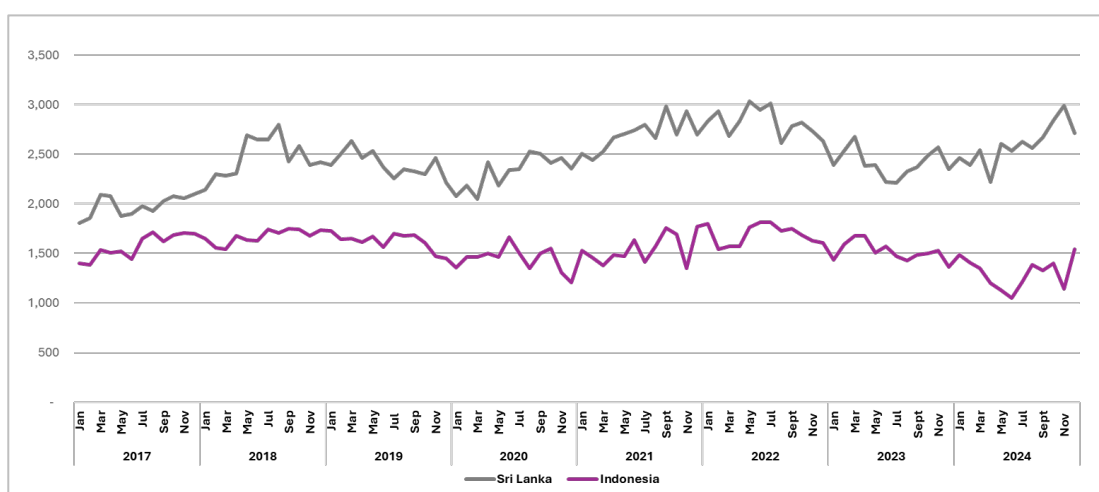
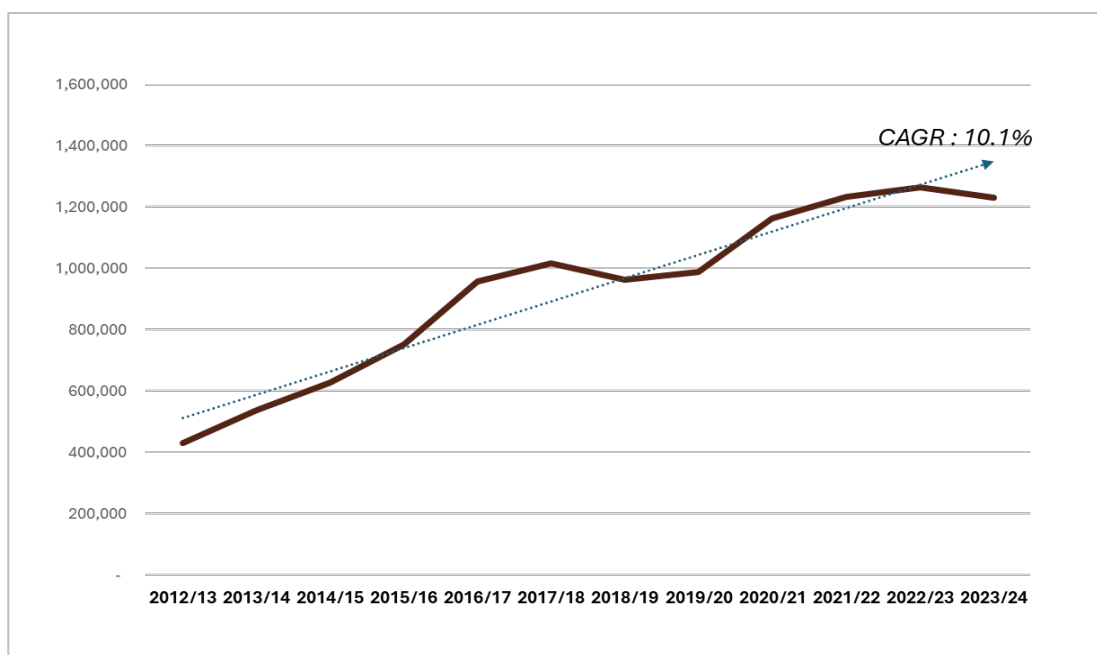


Figure 27. Prices of Activated Carbon (US\$/MT), 2017-2024

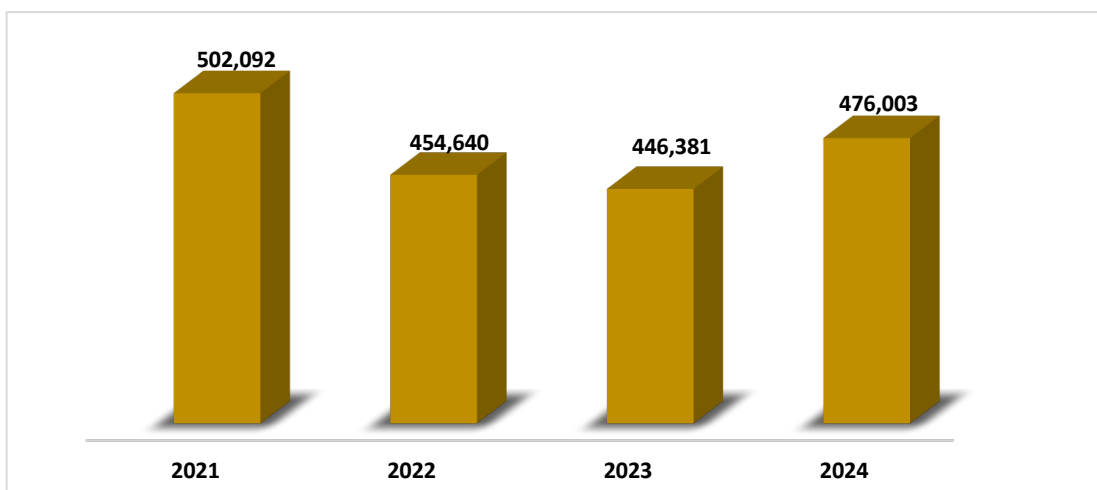
#### 4.5. Coir Fibre

India and Sri Lanka are the two largest producers and exporters of coconut coir, a fiber derived from the husk of the coconut. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the coir industry has shown significant growth, with India's coir exports increasing from 752,000 tons in 2015 to 1.232 million tons in 2024, reflecting a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10.1%. On the other hand, Sri Lanka's coir exports have shown a decline, with export earnings falling by 1.97% in 2023 compared to the previous year.

In 2024, India's coir exports are expected to continue to rise, while Sri Lanka faces a slight decrease. India's coir exports have benefited from strong demand in the agricultural sector, particularly for plant-growing media, while Sri Lanka's coir industry continues to face challenges. The global demand for coir products remains strong, and India is expected to maintain its lead as the top exporter, with Sri Lanka following closely behind.



**Figure 28. Export Coir Products from India (MT), 2012/13 – 2023/24**



**Figure 29. Export Earnings of Coir Products from Sri Lanka (MT), 2021 – 2024**

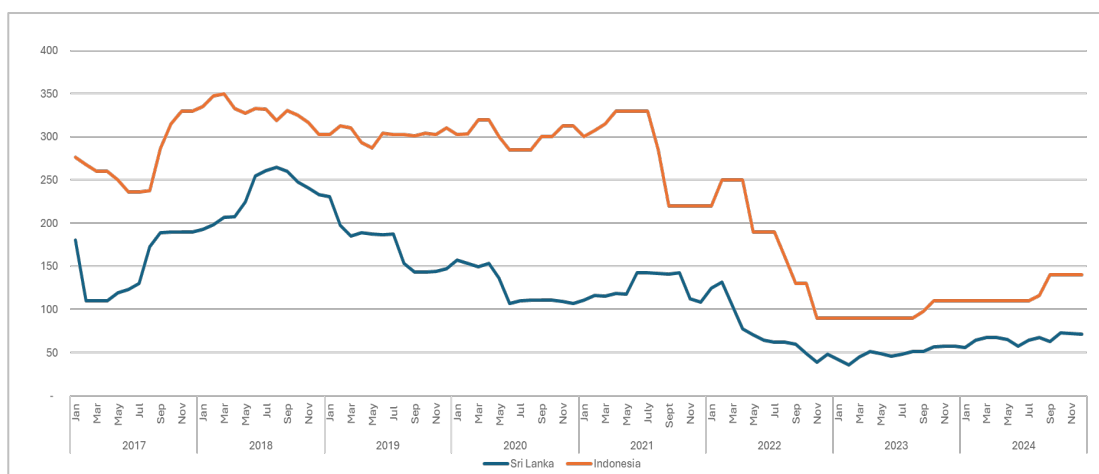


Figure 30. Prices of Coir Fiber (US\$/MT), 2017-2024

#### 4.6. Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO)

Virgin coconut oil (VCO) continues to experience rapid growth due to its health benefits, particularly its high levels of antioxidants and medium-chain triglycerides (MCTs). In 2024, VCO exports are projected to maintain their upward trajectory, with the Philippines leading the market, followed by Indonesia and Sri Lanka. The USA, Germany, and Canada remain the top importers of VCO, which is increasingly sought after for its health benefits, such as cholesterol reduction and potential applications in treating conditions like dementia.

VCO's market has seen steady growth, driven by consumer interest in functional foods and natural energy sources. The Philippines has seen a fivefold increase in VCO exports since 2011, and the product's global appeal continues to grow. In 2024, VCO exports are expected to maintain this trend, with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 3.24%, ensuring its position as one of the fastest-growing coconut products.



Figure 31. The Philippines VCO Export (MT), 2012-2024



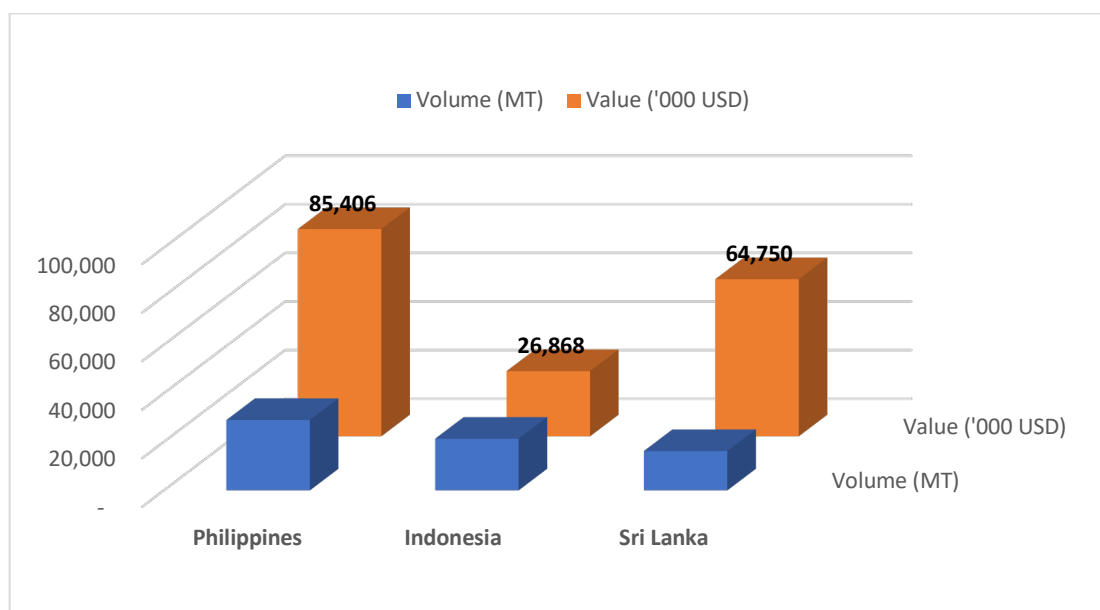


Figure 32. Philippines, Indonesia and Sri Lanka Exports of VCO, 2024



Figure 33. USA Import of Virgin Coconut Oil (MT), 2012-2024

#### 4.7. Coconut Water

Coconut water has experienced substantial growth, with its popularity driven by its natural hydration properties and health benefits. Brazil is the largest exporter of coconut water, followed by the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Vietnam, and Malaysia. In 2024, the coconut water market is expected to continue its rapid growth, with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 9.73%. This growth is fueled by increasing consumer demand for natural, health-conscious beverages.

In the U.S. market, coconut water imports exceeded 640,000 tons in 2024, reflecting a CAGR of 24.3% from 2010 to 2024. Brazil, the Philippines, and Thailand are expected to

remain the primary exporters of coconut water, with increasing global demand further driving growth. The product's popularity continues to rise, particularly as consumers seek natural alternatives to sugary drinks, cementing its position as one of the fastest-growing coconut products.

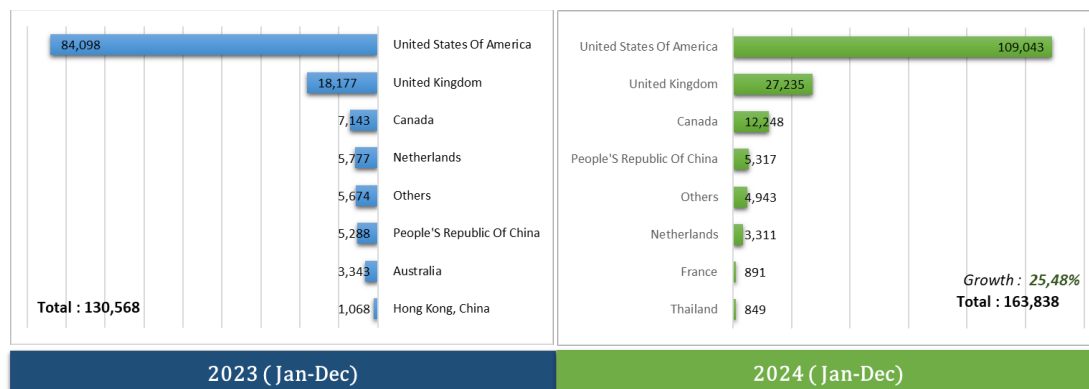


Figure 34. Philippines Export of Coconut Water, 2023-2024

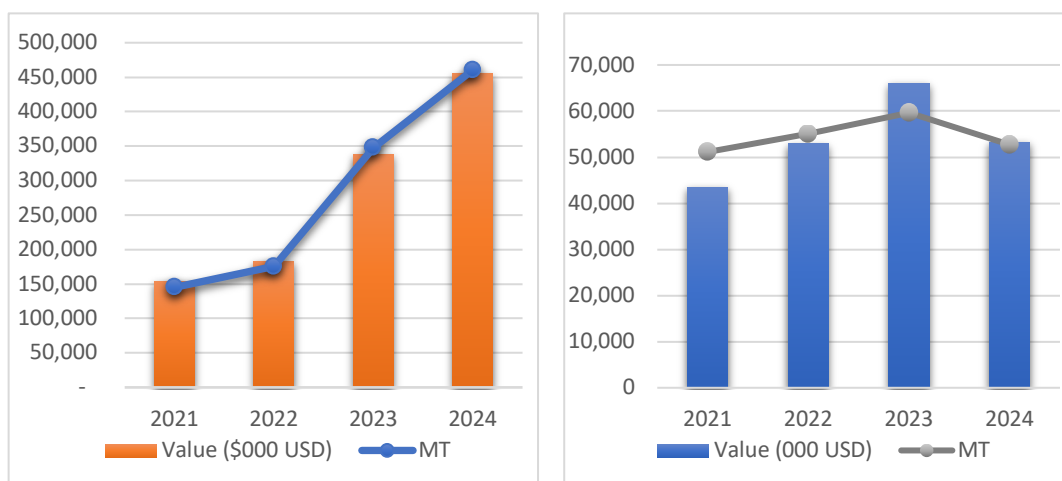


Figure 35. Thailand and Brazil Export of Coconut Water, 2021-2024

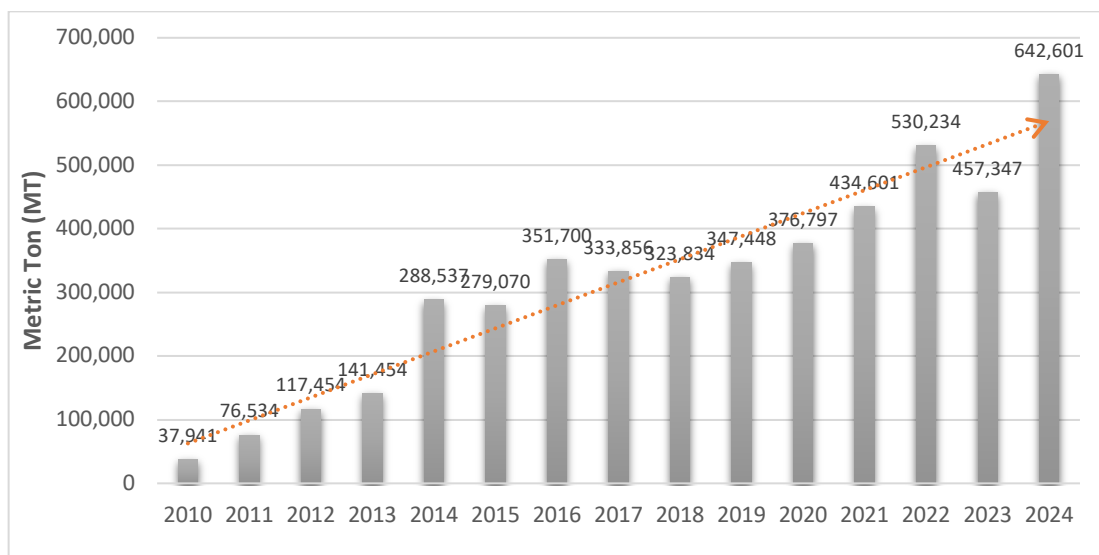


Figure 36. US Import of Coconut Water, 2010-2024

#### 4.8. Coconut Flour

Coconut flour is a natural byproduct derived from the production of coconut milk or virgin coconut oil. This white or off-white flour is commonly utilized in baking and is recognized for being gluten-free. Additionally, it offers higher levels of fat, protein, iron, phosphorus, and fiber compared to wheat flour. The Philippines and Sri Lanka are the primary exporters of coconut flour in the global market. In 2024, the Philippines exported 1,526 tons of coconut flour to various international destinations, while Sri Lanka shipped 3,850 tons of the product to countries around the world.



Figure 39. Philippines Export of Coconut Flour, 2023 - 2024

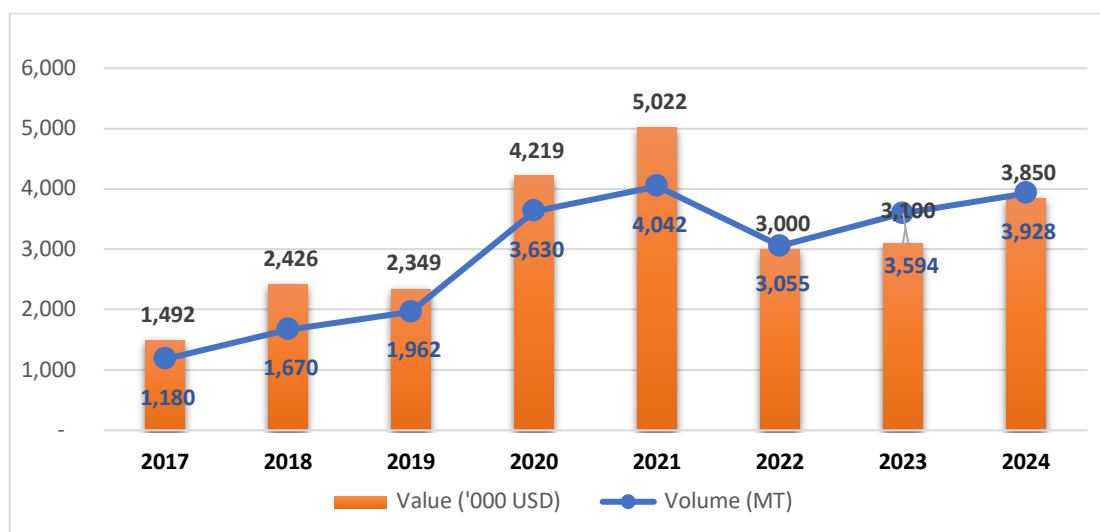


Figure 40. Sri Lanka Export of Coconut Flour, 2017 – 2024

## 5. Coconut Value Chain

The coconut industry offers significant opportunities for value enhancement by processing coconuts into various products, thereby lowering production costs and minimizing waste. The coconut value chain encompasses several stages, including finance, selection of quality planting materials, planting resources, maintenance, harvesting, collection, transportation, and research and development (R&D).

This chain extends through primary and advanced processing to manufacturing, producing a range of products, including edible coconut products, oleochemical-based items, woven goods, structured products, biofuels, and plant-growing media (as illustrated in Figure 41).

To increase export revenue, the industry is encouraged to pivot towards value-added products such as virgin coconut oil (VCO), desiccated coconut (DC), coconut milk, activated carbon, coconut water, and oleochemicals.

It's important to note that smallholder farmers own over 90% of coconut plantations, yet there is minimal cooperation between farmers and the industry or trade sectors. This gap must be addressed to ensure a steady supply of raw materials.

Several challenges within the value chain need attention, including:

- Inadequate plant protection: Addressing pests, diseases, and adverse weather conditions is crucial to prevent preharvest losses and maintain product quality.
- Inefficient machinery: Upgrading technology and machinery can enhance productivity.
- Insufficient government policies: These policies should be refined to bolster the competitiveness of the value chain.

Enhanced research and development, along with efficient information systems, are vital to facilitating informed decision-making and overcoming these challenges.

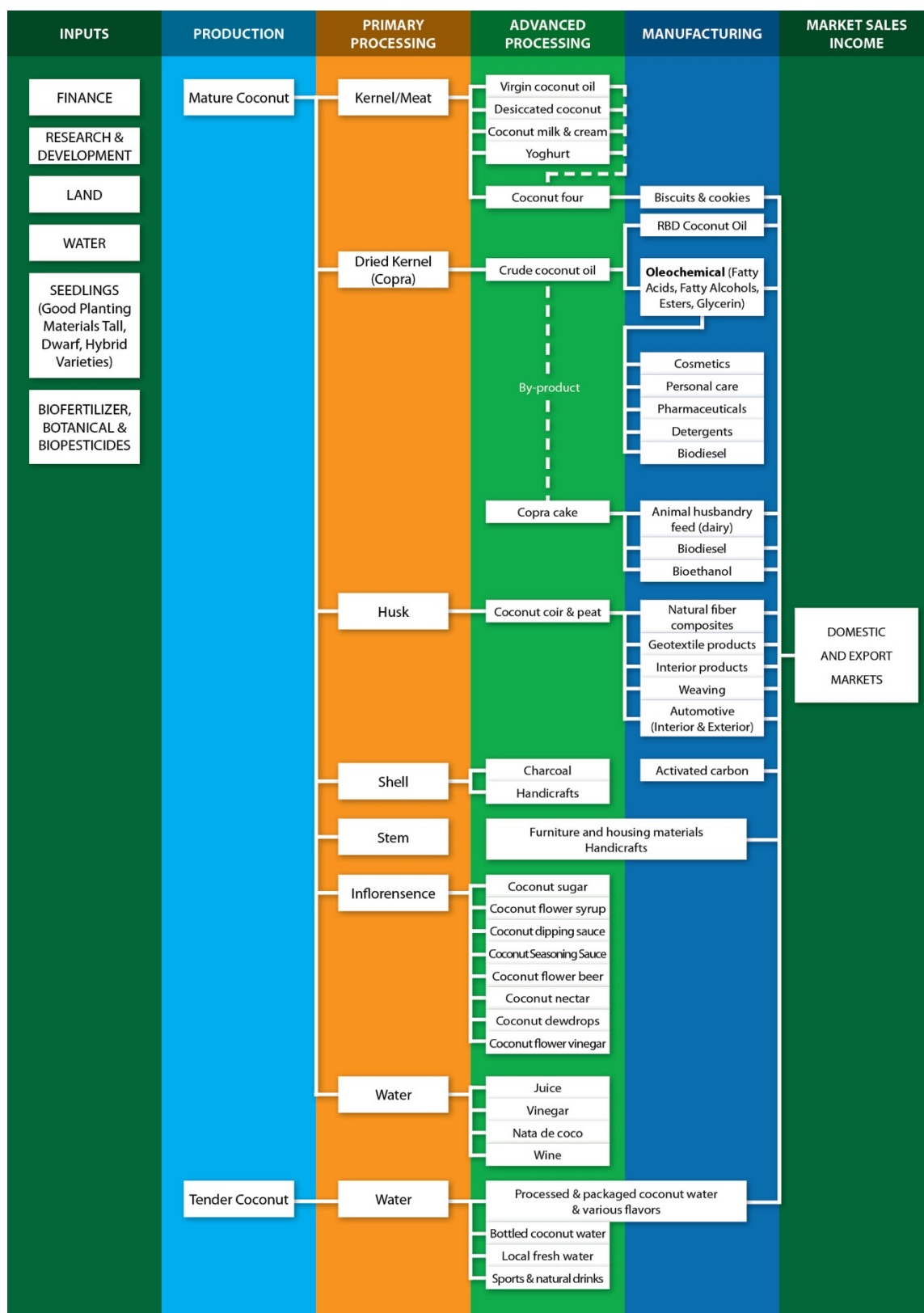


Figure 41. Coconut Value Chain

## 6. Recommendations for the Coconut Sector

### 6.1. Product Quality Standards and Improvement

The quality of coconut products affects consumer acceptability, prices, and competitiveness. Consumers in industrialized countries are gradually imposing stringent quality standards for all products especially for human consumption including feed components for livestock. If not cared for, it could mean loss of market share of such products and steeper competition with similar products from other vegetable products.

The Philippines initiated a copra quality improvement program to reduce the aflatoxin levels of copra and copra meal. One or two other countries have commenced work on the inclusion of product quality standards via in-country regulations as in the Solomon Islands. ICC quality standards have also been prepared for 7 products including Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO) which are harmonized standards. The ICC secretariat in collaboration with national experts has taken the initiative to compile national quality standards of various coconut products and harmonize them as ICC regional standards. These would be expanded over time to include most marketable products of coconut. At the very least, they can be used as a reference by processors, exporters and buyers. It is important to harmonize them with the global standards particularly for products traded worldwide. To achieve this objective ICC has conducted an international workshop on quality standards during 2021.

### 6.2. Promoting Climate Change Resilience to Sustain Market

Consumers around the world are now more care than ever about the climate change impacts to the health and environments, and they want to change their lifestyle to be more environmentally friendly. This affects their preferences to traded products that are processed from raw materials that are produced through ecofriendly technologies like Good agricultural practices (GAP) and integrated pest management (IPM). ICC in collaboration with the Philippines Coconut Authority (PCA) and the Coconut Development Board of India (CDB) had conducted IPM symposium and International GAP workshop respectively, to provide scientific information as references to member countries and to promote GAP and IPM to meet consumer preference, increase product acceptance and at the same time protect consumers because the products are processed from raw materials that use ecofriendly technologies that are save to human and environment and at the same time could increase product competitiveness in global markets. The vulnerability of agriculture including the coconut sector to the impacts of climate change and the potential contribution of coconut sector in mitigating the impacts has prompted the International Coconut Community (ICC) to promote ***“Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy for a Resilient and Sustainable Coconut Agroindustry”*** as the theme of the 50<sup>th</sup> COCOTECH conference and Exhibition. Development of products from shell and husk of coconuts and other parts of coconut like wasted dried coconut leaves as **degradable products** and packaging can contribute to mitigate the impact of climate changes and save the world. Processing of non-standard nuts as a **renewable energy** could also contribute to address fossil fuel issues and its toxic effects to the environment. These ecofriendly coconut products could sustain market during global issues of pandemic, climate change and geopolitical instability.

## **ACTIVITIES OF 2024**

During 2024, the International Coconut Community (ICC) significantly strengthened its role as the premier intergovernmental body for advancing a sustainable and resilient global coconut sector. Building on the momentum of previous years, ICC convened major international gatherings, including the 51<sup>st</sup> International COCOTECH Conference and Exhibition in Surabaya, Indonesia, and the World Coconut Day celebrations in Papua New Guinea—providing platforms for policy dialogue, knowledge sharing, and technology dissemination. New flagship initiatives, such as the launch of the Youth Empowerment Program, underscored ICC's commitment to engaging future generations in driving innovation and sustainability. In parallel, the Secretariat actively represented the Community in international conferences and dialogues across Asia, the Pacific, Africa, and Europe, highlighting coconut's contribution to food security, climate resilience, renewable energy, and circular economy solutions. Through extensive collaboration with governments, research institutions, industry stakeholders, and development partners, ICC advanced capacity-building, strengthened partnerships, and promoted the positive attributes of coconut and its products globally. These achievements reflect the Secretariat's continued dedication to fostering inclusive growth, enhancing value addition, and ensuring that millions of smallholder farmers and enterprises benefit from the evolving opportunities within the coconut industry.

### **1. Promoting efforts to increase coconut productivity and production, promoting the positive attributes of coconut and its products, capacity building and technology transfer**

#### **1.1. 51<sup>st</sup> International COCOTECH Conference and Exhibition**

The 51<sup>st</sup> International COCOTECH Conference and Exhibition took place from July 22 to 25, 2024, at the Westin Hotel, Surabaya, Indonesia. It was co-organized by the International Coconut Community (ICC) and the Ministry of Trade of Indonesia, with **President Joko Widodo and Minister of Trade Zulkifli Hasan** gracing the event. The theme, "Harnessing Coconut Potential as the Tree of Life and Green Energy," aimed to enhance sustainable practices in the coconut sector. The conference gathered over 600 participants from 31 countries, featuring eight sessions that covered policy frameworks, technological advancements, renewable energy solutions, and market expansion. The event also included an exhibition with 36 booths showcasing cutting-edge developments in coconut-based products.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/highlights-of-the-1st-day-of-the-51st-international-cocotech-conference-exhibition-2024>

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/highlights-of-the-2nd-day-of-the-cocotech-conference-and-exhibition-2024>

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/highlights-from-the-3rd-day-of-cocotech-conference-and-exhibition>

#### **1.2. Youth Empowerment Program**

Launched on September 17, 2024, in Jakarta, Indonesia, the Youth Empowerment Program was organized by ICC in collaboration with **NAM-CSSTC** and other stakeholders from research institutes, private sectors, and government agencies. The

program aims to empower young people in the coconut sector through virtual training (September–November 2024) and in-person sessions in 2025. It emphasizes skill development, market linkage, and sustainable practices. The inaugural event was attended by dignitaries from various partner organizations, emphasizing the critical role of youth in transforming the coconut sector through innovation, job creation, and sustainable development.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/youth-empowerment-program-in-the-coconut-industry-is-officially-launched>

### **1.3. World Coconut Day Celebrations in Papua New Guinea**

The World Coconut Day 2024 celebrations were held from September 30 to October 4 in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, hosted by **Kokonas Industri Koporesen (KIK)**, with collaboration from the International Coconut Community (ICC). The event, themed "Coconut for a Circular Economy: Building Partnership for Maximum Value," featured an international conference focusing on various aspects of the coconut value chain, including climate-smart farming, biosecurity, and technological advancements. Highlights included the launch of the National Coconut Census by KIK, a field visit showcasing successful replanting initiatives, and competitions recognizing outstanding contributions to the coconut sector. The event brought together stakeholders, emphasizing the partnership model to enhance sustainability and value addition in the coconut industry.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/world-coconut-day-2024-celebrations-in-papua-new-guinea-a-grand-success>

## **2. Webinar& Meetings attended and Organized to promote the Sustainable Development of Coconut and the Positive Attributes of Coconuts and its Products.**

### **2.1. Kenya National Coconut Week (18-19 April 2024)**

The inaugural National Coconut Week was organized by the Agriculture & Food Authority in Kilifi County, Kenya. The **Director General attended as a panellist and was joined by ICC Technical Working Group (TWG) member Dr. Lalith Perera.** The Director General emphasized the importance of investment attraction, sustainable practices, and enhanced market access for coconut products. The event included technical discussions on replanting strategies and an exhibition featuring diverse coconut products.

### **2.2. International Conference on Coconut (ICCO 2024), Thailand (23-26 May 2024)**

The ICCO 2024 was themed "Integrated Technology for Smart Coconut Production and Market Opportunity." **The Director General, along with the Deputy Director General,** actively participated in the discussions and field visits. Director General's keynote address covered global trends, production challenges, and the role of technology in enhancing sustainability and market expansion in the coconut sector.

### **2.3. Pest Management Conference, Solomon Islands (2-5 July 2024)**

Organized by the Pacific Community (SPC), this conference aimed to develop a comprehensive action plan for managing coconut pests, particularly the Coconut



Rhinoceros Beetle. **Director General** delivered a presentation titled "A Review of the Global Occurrence and Distribution of Coconut Pests: Lessons for the Pacific," highlighting the need for collaborative research and effective pest control strategies. The Admin and Finance Director also participated in the event.

**2.4. International Scientific Seminar on Coconut – Ben Tre, Vietnam (15-16 August 2024)**

Focusing on "Green and Sustainable Development Towards Net Zero," the seminar explored coconut's role in climate change mitigation. The Director General highlighted the carbon sequestration potential of coconut trees and sustainable practices in the sector. The event included a field visit showcasing sustainable coconut farming techniques and processing technologies. The Admin and Finance Director also participated.

**2.5. Coconut Festival 2024, India (27-29 August 2024)**

Held in Coimbatore, this event featured discussions on circular economy strategies and mechanization in coconut farming. The **Director General** delivered the keynote address, emphasizing maximizing coconut's value through partnerships. The festival included a symposium, exhibition, and awards ceremony, underscoring collaboration within the industry.

**2.6. Third Sustainable Vegetable Oil Conference (SVOC), Netherlands (10-11 September 2024)**

The conference, attended by the **Director General** and **Market & Statistics Director**, focused on sustainable development in vegetable oils, highlighting resilience and science-based policy strategies. Discussions emphasized coconut's role in global food and energy security, with evolving regulations in Europe.

**2.7. International Summit on the Revival of the Coconut Sector, Côte d'Ivoire (9-10 September 2024)**

**The Deputy Director General represented ICC at this summit, sharing insights on global trends** and the growth potential of Côte d'Ivoire's coconut sector. He highlighted strategic partnerships, capacity building, and funding opportunities for sustainable development.

**2.8. Sustainable Coconut Roundtable, Manila (26-27 September 2024)**

**The Director General participated as a panelist, discussing global trends and challenges**, while the Deputy Director General also attended the event. The discussions focused on production challenges, market expansion, and youth engagement in the coconut sector.

**2.9. China Food and Drinks Fair (CFDF) (29-31 October 2024)**

Held at the Shenzhen International Convention and Exhibition Center, CFDF highlighted coconut water as a "Trending Beverage of 2024." **Director General** addressed the global coconut water market, emphasizing health benefits, projected growth, and ICC's commitment to sustainable development. The presentation reinforced ICC's advocacy for coconut products, positioning coconut water as a key player in the global health market. The event also included a presentation from the Philippine Coconut Authority, enhancing the visibility of coconut water exports from the Philippines.

**2.10. Focus Group Discussion (FGD) on Non-Standard Copra, COCOTECH Conference (23 July 2024)**

Held during the COCOTECH Conference, this FGD aimed to establish a standardized definition for non-standard copra as a feedstock for Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). **Director General** led discussions with representatives from member countries and GPDJ, exploring criteria such as moisture content and quality standards. A consensus emerged on the need for a clear, universally accepted definition to promote SAF production.

**2.11. Follow-up Meeting on Non-Edible Copra Definition (5 November 2024)**

This virtual follow-up meeting reviewed feedback from ICC member countries and sought to finalize the definition of non-edible copra for presentation at the upcoming ICC Session. Discussions centered on aligning the definition with ICC standards to facilitate its use as an SAF feedstock and support sustainability efforts in the coconut industry. The experts and country representatives recommended the use of non-standard copra terminology rather than non-edible copra.

**3. Dialogues and Communications with NLOs and ICC Member Countries**

**3.1. Meeting at Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs, Indonesia (4 April 2024)**

The meeting aimed to discuss the potential of utilizing coconuts for Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) in Indonesia, following the inclusion of coconut on the ICAO Positive List. The Director General, along with the Market & Statistics Director (MSD) and Admin & Finance Director (AFD), represented ICC. Discussions also covered preparations for the 51<sup>st</sup> COCOTECH Conference and World Coconut Day 2024. The Ministry showed positive interest in supporting these initiatives and emphasized the need for collaboration on coconut production and carbon initiatives.

**3.2. Courtesy Meeting (Virtual) with New PCA Administrator, Philippines (15 April 2024)**

The virtual meeting introduced ICC's vision and strategic objectives to the new Administrator of the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA). During the discussion, Director General focused on strengthening collaborations, sharing best practices, and exploring joint initiatives to enhance the coconut sector in the Philippines. The Administrator expressed eagerness to engage with ICC's programs, including the 51<sup>st</sup> COCOTECH and the upcoming Ministerial Meeting.

**3.3. Courtesy Call with NLO, Thailand (26 April 2024)**

The courtesy call with Thailand's NLO at the Department of Agriculture focused on collaborative efforts, including sharing pest management solutions and research findings. The Director General highlighted ICC's initiatives and explored Thailand's participation in the 51<sup>st</sup> COCOTECH as well as the hosting of 61<sup>st</sup> ICC Session and Ministerial meeting. The NLO assured support for collaborative efforts and pest management, mainly through the introduction of the parasitoid *Asecodes hispinarus* to Indonesia.

**3.4. Meeting with National Planning Agency, Indonesia (13 May 2024)**

The meeting aimed to discuss the draft roadmap for coconut product development in Indonesia. Director General, and the MSD participated in discussions about enhancing value-added processing, aligning with national development strategies, and integrating sustainable practices in coconut production.

**3.5. Coordination Meeting with Ministry of Trade, Indonesia (20 May 2024)**

A coordination meeting was held with the Ministry of Trade to discuss preparations for the 51<sup>st</sup> COCOTECH Conference. Director General provided updates on logistical arrangements, provisional agenda and key topics for the conference sessions.

**3.6. Vietnam Delegation Visit to ICC Secretariat (3 June 2024)**

A delegation from the Vietnam Coconut Association visited the ICC Secretariat to strengthen bilateral relations and explore further collaboration. The Director General acknowledged Vietnam's achievements in coconut production and discussed joint activities, including Vietnam's participation in the 51<sup>st</sup> COCOTECH. The visit also included discussions with Indonesian coconut industry representatives.

**3.7. Coordination Meeting with NLO, Indonesia (5 June 2024)**

This meeting with the Director-General for International Trade Negotiations at the Ministry of Trade focused on the final preparations for the 51<sup>st</sup> COCOTECH Conference.

**3.8. Meeting with Ministry of Trade, Indonesia (1 August 2024)**

A meeting was held at the ICC Secretariat to discuss the Host Country Agreement for COCOTECH. Director General led the discussions, ensuring the agreement was aligned with ICC's requirements and Indonesia's hosting responsibilities.

**3.9. Coordination Meeting with KIK, PNG (9 August 2024)**

The meeting aimed to review preparations for the World Coconut Day celebrations in Papua New Guinea. The Director General discussed the agenda, resource speakers, and logistics, ensuring the smooth execution of the event. This was followed by a series of coordination meetings until the commencement of the event.

**3.10. Courtesy Visit to NLO, India (28 August 2024)**

The Director General and the MSD visited the ANLO, Dr. Prabhat Kumar, to discuss joint activities and India's participation in ICC's programs, including the 60<sup>th</sup> ICC Session. The discussions emphasized collaboration in sustainable coconut farming and technology transfer.

**3.11. Meeting with Ministry of Trade, Indonesia (3 September 2024)**

This meeting focused on finalizing the ICC's Host Country Agreement. The Director General led the discussions, ensuring that all logistical and programmatic aspects were well-coordinated.

**3.12. Coordination Meeting for 60<sup>th</sup> Session Preparations, Colombo, Sri Lanka (14-15 October 2024)**

A two-day coordination meeting was held to review the progress of preparations for the 60<sup>th</sup> ICC Session. The Director General engaged with local organizers, addressing logistical requirements, program schedules, and field visits.

**3.13. Courtesy Visit to New NLO of Sri Lanka (14 October 2024)**

The Director General met with the new NLO of Sri Lanka to discuss coordination for the upcoming 60<sup>th</sup> ICC Session. The meeting focused on enhancing collaboration,

aligning national strategies with ICC's programs, and ensuring Sri Lanka's active role in ICC activities.

**3.14. A delegation from Malaysia visited ICC Secretariat (29 October – 01 November)**

A delegation from the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Cost of Living, the government of Malaysia, visited the ICC Secretariat to strengthen bilateral relations and explore further collaboration. Deputy Director General and Market and Statistics Director had discussions with them. The visit also included discussions with Indonesian Government, Coconut industry representatives and Field visit to Coconut Industries.

**4. Linkages with United Nations Bodies and International Partner Organizations Foster Expansion of membership of the community**

**4.1. Meeting with SCP and Unilever Representatives (29 January 2024)**

The meeting discussed collaboration in the upcoming 51<sup>st</sup> COCOTECH conference, youth engagement, and the Coconut Charter initiative. Discussions emphasized youth involvement in the coconut sector, video production for outreach, and capacity-building programs. SCP insisted on its commitment to supporting these initiatives through funding and partnership efforts.

**4.2. Meeting with ACIAR Representatives (26 February 2024)**

The meeting focused on strengthening collaboration for research and development, particularly in pest management and germplasm conservation. Both parties expressed a strong commitment to fostering innovations in the coconut sector and explored potential joint projects to enhance sustainable coconut production.

**4.3. Meeting with GPDJ Japan and IJBNET (18 March 2024)**

The meeting discussed presentation topics for COCOTECH, focusing on non-standard coconut as feedstock for Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). It was agreed to organize a workshop on standards for non-standard coconut as a side event at COCOTECH. The meeting highlighted the importance of standardization and certification for new coconut-based applications.

**4.4. Meeting with NAM-CSSTC (18 March 2024)**

The meeting at ICC Secretariat explored collaborative programs for 2024-2025, focusing on capacity building and technology transfer in the coconut sector. Both organizations expressed their intention to support joint programs, emphasizing technical cooperation and resource mobilization for member countries.

**4.5. Participation in UN-ESCAP Annual Session (22-26 April 2024)**

As an observer organization, ICC actively contributed to the 80<sup>th</sup> UN-ESCAP session discussions, emphasizing digital innovation for sustainable development. The ICC delegation, led by the Director General, also had a courtesy call with Dr. Armida, Executive Secretary of UN-ESCAP, where they explored synergies for future collaboration and highlighted coconut's role in supporting digital agriculture and climate resilience.

**4.6. Meeting with GPDJ Japan and IJBNET Representatives (4 May 2024)**

The meeting discussed defining non-edible copra and setting up a side meeting during COCOTECH to advance standards for SAF feedstock. This collaboration aims to

enhance the utilization of coconut by-products while ensuring compliance with international sustainability standards.

**4.7. Virtual Meeting on Youth Empowerment Program (13 May 2024)**

The virtual meeting brought together key stakeholders, including NAM-CSSTC and SCP, to discuss the launch of the Youth Empowerment Program. The discussions focused on objectives, implementation plans, and potential funding sources to support youth engagement and entrepreneurship within the coconut sector.

**4.8. Virtual Conference Organized by SPC (9<sup>th</sup> PHOAFS) (15-17 May 2024)**

ICC participated as a partner organization, with the Director General delivering a statement emphasizing coconut's role in biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and sustainable agriculture. The conference also highlighted ICC's Youth Empowerment Program, aimed at fostering innovation and sustainability in the coconut sector.

**4.9. Meeting with NAM-CSSTC (10 June 2024)**

The meeting focused on finalizing arrangements for the Youth Empowerment Program. NAM-CSSTC agreed to fund the initiative, with a MoA to be signed shortly. The discussions underscored the importance of youth involvement in transforming the coconut industry and promoting sustainable practices.

**4.10. Meeting with ACIAR CEO, Embassy of Australia (20 August 2024)**

The meeting centered on strengthening ties with ACIAR, focusing on joint initiatives for sustainable coconut development, research, and youth empowerment. The discussions reinforced the commitment to collaborative projects, emphasizing capacity building and market access for coconut farmers.

**4.11. Visit to CIRAD Headquarters, France (12-13 September 2024)**

The visit focused on renewing the MoU between CIRAD and ICC, with discussions on establishing a quarantine center for coconut germplasm exchange. The collaboration aims to enhance coconut genetic diversity and promote sustainable farming practices through germplasm conservation.

**4.12. Virtual Meeting with NAM-CSSTC and IsDB (24 September 2024)**

This virtual meeting explored potential collaboration between ICC, NAM-CSSTC, and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) for technical cooperation and capacity enhancement in coconut-producing countries. The discussions emphasized technical support, funding opportunities, and the promotion of sustainable coconut production.

**4.13. Meeting with IJBNet Team on SAF Feedstock (8 October 2024)**

The meeting discussed SAF development using coconut by-products, focusing on technical specifications, certification processes, and standardization efforts. The collaboration aims to position coconut as a viable feedstock for SAF, aligning with global sustainability goals.

**4.14. Virtual Meeting with NAM-CSSTC and IsDB (21 October & 04 November 2024)**

The follow-up meetings focused on technical cooperation for enhancing coconut industry capacity in ICC-COGEN member countries. Discussions included training

programs, research collaboration, and resource mobilization to support sustainable development in the coconut sector.

**5. Meetings with TWG, SACH, Farmer's Organization and Industry representatives**

**5.1. Virtual Participation in Export-Import Seminar, Bekasi (2 February 2024)**

The seminar focused on the export-import dynamics of coconut products, exploring opportunities to enhance the competitiveness of Indonesian coconuts in the global market. The Director General attended virtually, providing insights on ICC's efforts to promote market access and facilitate export growth for member countries.

**5.2. Meeting with KITA AGAPE COCOINDO Ltd (16 February 2024)**

The meeting aimed to establish collaboration with KITA AGAPE COCOINDO Ltd., focusing on product development and market expansion. The Director General and Market & Statistics Director (MSD) discussed potential projects, including technical assistance in processing and quality enhancement for export.

**5.3. Field Visit to KITA AGAPE COCOINDO Ltd. (17 February 2024)**

The Director General and MSD conducted a field visit to assess KITA AGAPE COCOINDO Ltd.'s facilities and ongoing production processes. Discussions included supply chain improvements, sustainability practices, and potential joint ventures to boost export volumes.

**5.4. Virtual Meeting with SACH Members (26 April 2024)**

The meeting with SACH members focused on discussing WHO's publication on coconut oil. The Director General led the discussions, strategizing a response to WHO's review paper. The meeting aimed to prepare a well-researched rejoinder, emphasizing the nutritional benefits and traditional uses of coconut oil which was sent to WHO.

**5.5. Virtual Meeting with Head of Research Center, Cibirong BRIN (7 May 2024)**

The Director General discussed research collaboration with BRIN, particularly on coconut pest management, breeding, and biotechnology. The meeting also explored opportunities for integrating digital solutions into coconut research to enhance productivity and sustainability.

**5.6. Discussion with Lecturers of Sam Ratulangi University, Manado (7 June 2024)**

A discussion was held with lecturers from Sam Ratulangi University to explore potential collaboration in coconut research and capacity building. The Director General emphasized the importance of academic partnerships in developing innovative solutions for coconut cultivation and processing.

**5.7. Program Participation at Sam Ratulangi University (19-20 June 2024)**

The program, hosted by Sam Ratulangi University, focused on coconut research. The Director General attended the program.

- 5.8. Resource Speaker for Virtual Focus Group Discussion on Indonesian Coconut Potential (9 July 2024)

The Director General served as a resource speaker at the FGD organized by the Industrial Plant and Refreshment Instrument Standard Testing Center. The presentation emphasized the international market potential of Indonesian coconuts, discussing strategies for enhancing product competitiveness and export growth.

- 5.9. Meeting with BRIN Researchers at ICC Secretariat (30 July 2024)

The meeting centered on ongoing research collaboration for pest management, genetic improvement, and sustainable coconut farming practices. The Director General highlighted the need for coordinated research efforts to address critical challenges in coconut production.

- 5.10. Series of Virtual Meetings with BRIN Researchers on Springer Book Publication

The meetings focused on the progress of the Springer book publication, specifically on science-based pest management in coconuts. The Director General discussed timelines, chapter submissions, and the integration of recent research findings in the publication.

- 5.11. Attended Opening Ceremony of Fi Asia Indonesia 2024 (4 September 2024)

The Director General, along with Deputy Director General, MSD, and Information & Publication Director, attended the opening ceremony. The event provided insights into market trends and innovations in the food ingredients sector, with discussions on the role of coconut ingredients in international markets.

- 5.12. Visit by Dean of Faculty of Postgraduate Studies, Sam Ratulangi University (21 October 2024)

The visit focused on strengthening academic collaboration, particularly in research and capacity-building programs related to coconuts. The Director General discussed potential joint research projects, faculty exchange programs, and support for student engagement in the coconut sector.

## **6. International Coconut Genetic Resource Network**

- 6.1. COGENT Coordination Meeting (Virtual) (14 March 2024)

The virtual coordination meeting brought together Steering Committee members, ITAG Leaders, donor agency representatives, and coconut sector experts to discuss COGENT's strategic directions. The Director General led discussions on germplasm exchange, data management, and capacity building. The meeting also focused on reactivating COGENT's programs under ICC, addressing challenges like resource mobilization, and enhancing international cooperation for coconut genetic resources.

- 6.2. Meeting with COGENT Coordinator Regarding SC Meeting preparation (12 June 2024)

The Director General and Deputy Director General had a virtual meeting with the COGENT Coordinator to finalize the agenda for the upcoming Steering Committee (SC) meeting. Discussions centered on reviewing COGENT's current programs, proposed action plans, and key agenda items to be presented at the SC meeting. The meeting emphasized strengthening germplasm conservation and revising the Steering Committee's structure.

**6.3. COGENT Steering Committee Meeting (26 July 2024)**

The 39<sup>th</sup> COGENT Steering Committee Meeting was held back-to-back with the 51st COCOTECH conference in Surabaya, Indonesia. The hybrid meeting, themed "Unlocking Transformation Pathways of COGENT under ICC," reviewed COGENT's strategy and governance structure. The Director General emphasized integrating new technologies like AI and Blockchain for better data management and germplasm conservation. Key presentations from partner organizations, including Crop Trust and CIRAD, focused on enhancing coconut genebanks and strengthening partnerships for sustainable conservation.

**6.4. COGENT Handover Program and Field Visit to ICG-SEA (18 October 2024)**

The handover ceremony marked the transition of COGENT Coordination responsibilities from the outgoing coordinator to the ICC Secretariat. The event was held at the Four Points by Sheraton in Manado, Indonesia, with the participation of COGENT member countries, ITAGs, and international genebank representatives. The Director General highlighted the importance of this transition for advancing global collaboration in coconut genetic resources. The field visit to ICG-SEA provided participants with practical insights into germplasm conservation efforts. Discussions focused on enhancing international germplasm exchanges, ensuring data standardization, and fostering new partnerships to support the sustainability of coconut genetic resources.

**7. Dissemination & Publications**

The ICC Secretariat has continually disseminated coconut-related information and technologies through its regular publications and media, namely:

1. **Weekly Price Update** - ICC provides weekly price updates to all member countries which include the global prices for coconut products like coconut oil, copra, desiccated coconut, coconut (husked), coconut shell charcoal, coir fiber etc. Prices of competing vegetable oils like palm kernel oil and crude palm oil are also provided. Information on prevailing global prices would aid in better decision making by the coconut farmers and processors in member countries.
2. **Cocommunity** – This is the monthly Newsletter of the ICC Secretariat. The Director General presents her monthly editorial in this Newsletter titled "Director General Speaks". Other sections include Community News, Market and Coconut Technology News, Bio-Diesel News, News on Other Vegetable Oils, Business Opportunities, Prices of Coconut Products, Statistics and Market Analysis. All NLOs are encouraged to share coconut industry news articles to the Secretariat for publication in Cocommunity.
3. **COCOINFO International** – This is a semi-annual popular journal for the general public focusing on coconut cultivation, product processing and marketing. Emphasis is given to emerging high-valued added coconut products for export including new technologies on coconut processing, current issues and market trends.
4. **CORD** – This is the annual technical journal solely devoted on completed work on coconut research and development. The journal has been upgraded as a peer reviewed-Journal following an Open Journal System. To improve the quality of CORD Journal, the International Coconut Community has recently launched the website



specifically designated for CORD and the journal has been indexed in DOAJ, Portal Garuda; Google Scholar; soon in Web of Science, Scopus, and other reputable indexing agencies to get international recognition.

5. Coconut Statistical Yearbook – This annual publication presents the latest available statistical data of the world coconut industry. All NLO's are requested to facilitate the submission of their country's updated statistics to the ICC Secretariat, annually. A Statistic webpage has been developed to present interactive features, which allow the users or member countries to conduct basic and advanced analysis data.
6. Directory of Coconut Traders (Exporters/Importers) and Equipment Manufacturers.
7. COGENT Newsletter. This is an annual newsletter covering the programs and projects of COGENT activities.
8. Social Media (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, Youtube)

ICC publications can also be ordered online, including registration/additional listing of new coconut processors, traders, and exporters.

#### **8. Governance and Administrative Matters**

1. Continuing management approach towards professionalism and discipline on punctuality, attendance, and submission of quality work outputs by the ICC Secretariat Staff shall be pursued.
2. Monthly meetings of the ICC secretariat used to conduct to review the progress of programs and action to be initiated for the welfare of the community.
3. Annual performance evaluation will continue to be implemented to motivate the staff towards excellence and quality work outputs, for the benefit of the ICC member countries. Communications at the ICC Secretariat (e.g. replies to letters and e-mails) are acted promptly.
4. A monthly review of office disbursements and income will continue to be done to ensure proper accountability and transparency of financial management procedures consistent with the international accepted accounting/auditing standards and the ICC Secretariat Rules & Regulations.
5. Regular and friendly reminders to all NLO's of the member countries are also done and will continue to be done to ensure early remittance of the annual membership contribution to the ICC Secretariat.
6. Maintaining a close collaboration with NLO's of the member countries to enable timely compilation of country statistics for the publication of the Annual Yearbook.

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 60<sup>TH</sup> ICC SESSION AND MINISTERIAL MEETING**

The 60<sup>th</sup> ICC Session & Ministerial Meeting was convened from 25–28 November 2024 at the Hilton Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka, hosted by the Government of Sri Lanka through the Ministry of Plantation and Community Infrastructure. The meeting was attended by Ministers, plenipotentiary delegates, National Liaison Officers, and senior officials from ICC member countries, along with representatives of twelve observer organizations including UNIDO, FAO, CIRAD, SPC, CABI, Crop Trust, INFO, NAM-CSSTC, SCP, and UNDP. In total, 65 participants registered for the Session.

### **Opening Ceremony**

The Opening Ceremony featured remarks from key dignitaries:

- **Mr. B. K. Prabhath Chandrakeerthi**, Chair of ICC and Secretary, Ministry of Plantation and Community Infrastructure of Sri Lanka, emphasized the importance of international partnerships and a comprehensive roadmap for sectoral development, particularly in combating pests, climate change, and price volatility. He acknowledged UNIDO's support in advancing Sri Lanka's coconut industry.
- **Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw**, Director General of ICC, highlighted Sri Lanka's historical role in ICC, reviewed the progress of ICC programs, and emphasized coconut's potential to double or triple its global market value through innovation, high-value products, and climate-smart solutions. She called for collective action to ensure equitable benefits for farmers and industries.
- **Hon. Samantha Vidyaratne**, Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure of Sri Lanka, underlined coconut's cultural and economic importance, framing it as the "Tree of Life" and a cornerstone of Sri Lanka's identity. He reaffirmed Sri Lanka's commitment to international cooperation for modernization and resilience.
- **Dr. Sanathanie Ranasinghe**, former Director of the Coconut Research Institute of Sri Lanka, delivered the keynote address, stressing global challenges such as aging plantations, pests, and climate change, while pointing to opportunities in carbon sequestration, regenerative farming, and value-added products. She commended ICC's leadership and urged greater collaboration for a resilient future.

Plaques of appreciation were awarded to outstanding contributors nominated by host country, including Mr. W. S. P. Wijewardane (Best Coconut Farmer), Haycarb PLC (Best Industry), and Dr. Sanathanie Ranasinghe (Best Government Official), as well as long-serving ICC Secretariat staff.

### **Proceedings and Deliberations**

The Session unanimously adopted its provisional agenda and proceeded with comprehensive deliberations. Country statements were delivered by Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Tonga, providing detailed updates on sectoral developments, replanting initiatives, pest management, and value addition strategies. Observer organizations also presented their programs, highlighting collaborative opportunities in research, technology, and sustainability.

- **Côte d'Ivoire** reported on its role as Africa's leading exporter, highlighting challenges with lethal yellowing and urbanization pressures, while reaffirming commitments to replanting hybrids and expanding value addition.

- **Fiji** outlined replanting programs and intercropping systems, targeting expansion of coconut area to 100,000 hectares in 20 years, with a strong focus on youth and women empowerment.
- **India** showcased its large-scale cultivation and productivity leadership, emphasizing initiatives for organic farming, hybridization, and value addition (VCO, DC, coir), while acknowledging challenges such as price volatility and rural infrastructure.
- **Indonesia** detailed its vast coconut sector, hybridization efforts, and sustainability programs including carbon sequestration and agroforestry, while emphasizing the role of smallholders.
- **Jamaica** presented disease-tolerant hybrids (Maypan, Brapan) and strategies to expand processing and value addition, leveraging its strong germplasm collection.
- **Kenya** reported on aging plantations, market gaps, and new hybridization programs, aligning with national economic policies to strengthen rural livelihoods.
- **Malaysia** emphasized hybridization, replanting, and research by MARDI, alongside challenges such as declining areas and processing capacity, with a focus on downstream value addition.
- **Papua New Guinea** launched its first National Coconut Census, using GIS and UAV technology, and committed to replanting, intercropping, and new processing investments despite pest and market access challenges.
- **Philippines** showcased achievements under the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP), with major initiatives in replanting, fertilization, hybridization, and intercropping, while maintaining strong export performance.
- **Solomon Islands** emphasized replanting programs, value addition, and international collaboration despite significant constraints in processing and senile plantations.
- **Sri Lanka** reported on replanting, hybrid seedlings, pest and disease management, and the “Kapruka Purawara” program for rural development, with an export target of USD 1.5 billion by 2030.
- **Thailand** highlighted aromatic coconut leadership, hybridization efforts, and innovative certifications such as GAP Monkey Free Plus, while hosting the 2024 International Coconut Conference.
- **Tonga** underscored challenges of aging palms and limited markets but emphasized community programs and value-added exports like VCO and handicrafts.

Representatives of observer organizations shared key initiatives aligned with ICC priorities:

- **NAM-CSSTC** reaffirmed its support for youth empowerment and farmer training programs.
- **DOST-PCAARRD** (Philippines) highlighted advances in germplasm utilization, hybridization, and pest management technologies.
- **CABI** presented its work on integrated pest management (IPM) solutions for pests such as the Rhinoceros Beetle and its PlantwisePlus program.
- **Sustainable Coconut Partnership (SCP)** shared progress on sustainability charters, deforestation monitoring, and farmer livelihood initiatives.
- **Crop Trust** emphasized conservation of coconut diversity in gene banks and proposed deeper collaboration with ICC for long-term sustainability.

- **CIRAD** underlined genetic diversity research, agroecology, and replanting initiatives in Asia and the Pacific.
- **SPC** reported on ex situ conservation through ICG-SP and cryopreservation, alongside pest management programs.
- **GPDI (Japan)** highlighted innovations in Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) production from non-standard coconuts.
- **UNIDO** detailed its roadmap collaboration with Sri Lanka on productivity, processing, and export growth.
- **INFO** advocated for a global Code of Conduct and harmonized certification for the coconut sector.
- **FAO-ITPGRFA** outlined its treaty framework for germplasm access and emphasized joint work with ICC on conservation and emergency reserves.

Key reports were presented by the Chairs of the Technical Working Group (TWG) and the Scientific Advisory Committee on Health (SACH), as well as the Secretariat and ICC-COGENT. Delegates reviewed the Annual Report of the Secretariat and endorsed the major international program of activities for 2025.

### **Major Outcomes and Decisions**

The Session adopted a wide range of strategic decisions and endorsements, including:

- **Adoption of the Recommendations of the 51<sup>st</sup> COCOTECH Conference**, emphasizing technology-driven replanting, carbon initiatives, and youth engagement.
- **Endorsement of Quality Standards for Non-Standard Copra** as a feedstock for Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF).
- **Revisions to governance structures**, including the new structure of SACH and the COGENT Steering Committee.
- **Approval of changes to ICC leadership titles:** Executive Director to Director General, Assistant Director to Deputy Director General, and Officer to Director.
- **Amendments to ICC Rules and Procedures and Staff Regulations**, alongside the adoption of a revised salary structure.
- **Endorsement of COGENT's Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** and amended qualification criteria for the Deputy Director General post.
- **Rules and Procedures for ICC Events** were formalized to enhance consistency and transparency.
- Extensive discussion on **financial matters** reinforced ICC's commitment to transparency and accountability.

### **Handover of Chairmanship**

At the close of the Session, the Chairmanship of ICC was formally handed over from the Government of Sri Lanka to the **Government of Thailand**, which will preside over the Community for the term 2025–2026.

## RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 51<sup>ST</sup> INTERNATIONAL COCOTECH CONFERENCE

**The theme of the Conference:** “Harnessing Coconut’s Potential as the Tree of Life and Green Energy”.

### **The panel generally recommends:**

Emphasizes the importance of recognizing and maximizing the diverse capabilities of coconuts. This involves promoting sustainable practices in coconut cultivation, exploring innovative uses of coconut-based products beyond traditional applications, and harnessing the renewable energy potential of coconuts. The recommendation highlights the need for interdisciplinary collaboration, technological advancements, and policy support to fully leverage the multifaceted benefits of coconuts in enhancing livelihoods, promoting environmental sustainability, and advancing green energy initiatives worldwide.

### **Session Specific Recommendations:**

1. **Strengthen Policy Frameworks:** Develop and enforce comprehensive policies to implement replanting program of senile and unproductive palms to meet market demand, enhance coconut breeding, and cultivation. These policies should support sustainable practices, green funding, ethical sourcing, trade, and promote public-private partnerships and international collaboration for carbon sequestration and innovative product development.
2. **Invest in Research and Development:** Prioritize R&D in high-yielding, disease-resistant, superior trait coconut varieties and innovative products. Focus on clinical studies, biotechnological advancements, and the development of biofuels from non- edible coconuts. Establish centers of excellence and pilot projects for carbon sequestration and create standardized methodologies for carbon sequestration measurements, and carbon trading.
3. **Support Sustainable Farming Practices:** Encourage climate-smart agriculture, organic farming, and integrated pest management to enhance sustainability and resilience. Promote multi-species cropping systems to increase biodiversity and farmer income, soil and water conservation, and the use of coconut by-products for soil health and carbon sequestration. Implement bioengineering solutions for infrastructure development and environmental remediation.
4. **Enhance Market Access and Trade Facilitation:** Develop digital trade platforms, streamline regulations, and implement traceability systems to ensure quality and safety. Promote digital tools for supply chain management, adherence to international standards, and participation in global trade fairs. Educate consumers on the benefits of coconut products.
5. **Foster Capacity Building and Training:** Provide training programs including youth empowerment program on best practices in coconut conservation, sustainable agriculture, post-harvest management, and trade. Develop awareness campaigns, include coconut sustainability in academic curricula, and enhance local communities' skills in processing and product development.
6. **Encourage Sustainable and Ethical Sourcing:** Implement fair trade practices, traceability systems, and certifications to ensure ethical sourcing. Advocate for sustainable farming

practices and support initiatives that promote fair wages and safe working conditions. Ensure product integrity throughout the supply chain.

7. **Enhance Collaborative Efforts to Develop and Implement Carbon Sequestration Programs:** Promote collaborative R&D for carbon sequestration and carbon credit initiatives in coconut plantations. Support information exchange on carbon trading mechanisms and market opportunities, and encourage farmer participation in carbon markets to create additional income streams.
8. **Promote Value Addition and Product Innovation:** Invest in the development of innovative coconut-based products and modern processing technologies to improve efficiency and quality. Enhance packaging technologies and promote advanced drying, dehusking, and packaging methods to improve post-harvest operations and market value.
9. **Strengthen Germplasm Conservation Efforts:** Enhance conservation of coconut genetic resources through national and international genebanks. Ensure the preservation of biodiversity for future generations by supporting genebank establishments and utilization of genetic resources.
10. **Promote International Collaboration:** Encourage ICC member countries to share best practices, technologies, and innovations in coconut micropropagation, farming and processing. Seek international funding and technical assistance, and promote global trade policies that facilitate coconut exports from developing countries.
11. **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Alignment:** Develop policies that contribute to poverty alleviation, food security, and economic growth. Promote gender equality, environmental sustainability, and renewable energy adoption in coconut farming and processing. Encourage community-based production to promote economic inclusion.
12. **Promoting Coconut-Based Bioenergy for Environmental Sustainability:** Develop coconut-based bioenergy solutions to mitigate climate change and reduce fossil fuel reliance. Invest in R&D for biofuels, such as sustainable aviation fuel, and promote the use of coconut shell charcoal briquettes as an environmentally friendly alternative to wood charcoal.
13. **Promote the Use of Digital Technologies:** Utilize digital tools, including IoT and smart farming applications, for efficient supply chain management and transparency. Develop mobile applications and e-learning platforms to provide farmers with real-time information and training on sustainable practices and market access.

## UPDATE OF ACTIVITIES OF CY 2025

### 1. Promoting efforts to increase coconut productivity and production, promoting the positive attributes of coconut and its products, capacity building and technology transfer

#### 1.1. ICC Side Event during the 81<sup>st</sup> UNESCAP Session of the Commission

On 25 April 2025, ICC organized a high-level side event entitled “*Harnessing the Potential of Coconut for Food and Energy Security: Sustainable Solutions for a Resilient Future*” during the 81<sup>st</sup> Session of the UNESCAP Commission in Bangkok. The hybrid event drew 133 participants — 68 in person and 65 virtually — including government officials, researchers, private sector stakeholders, farmers, and media representatives from across Asia-Pacific, Africa, and partner organizations.

The event highlighted the multifunctional role of coconut for food and nutrition security, renewable energy (including sustainable aviation fuel), and climate mitigation. Presentations were delivered by members of the ICC Scientific Advisory Committee on Health and international experts, addressing topics such as nutritional benefits of coconut products, carbon sequestration potential of coconut plantations, and policy challenges.

**Outcome:** The side event successfully raised awareness at the policy level, strengthened ICC’s visibility within the UNESCAP framework, and generated recommendations on innovation, value addition, and policy integration to be taken forward in ICC programs.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/icc-hosted-key-side-event-at-the-81st-session-of-the-unescap-commission-harnessing-the-potential-of-coconut-for-food-and-energy-security>

#### 1.2. Consultative Meeting on Low-Yield Aromatic Coconut Plantations in Thailand

Responding to a request from Thailand’s Department of Agriculture (DOA), ICC co-organized a consultative meeting and field visits on 26–27 April 2025 in Ratchaburi province to address declining productivity in aromatic coconut plantations. International experts from CPCRI (India), CRI (Sri Lanka), University of the Philippines Los Baños, and ICC joined Thai researchers and industry representatives in assessing on-farm challenges.

Findings highlighted low nut set and poor quality largely driven by heat stress, low relative humidity, and extended droughts. Recommended interventions included improved soil fertility management, irrigation scheduling, plant tissue analysis, optimized spacing, and targeted breeding and adaptation research for climate-resilient aromatic coconut varieties.

**Outcome:** The meeting provided DOA and farmers with actionable strategies to pilot at farm level and strengthened ICC’s technical cooperation with member countries.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/thailand-seeks-solutions-for-low-yielding-aromatic-coconut-plantations-with-international-expert-consultation-in-collaboration-with-icc>

#### 1.3. Youth Empowerment Program (Phase 2 – Internship Phase)

The internship phase of the ICC Youth Empowerment Program (YEP) was officially inaugurated on 14 May 2025 in Bogor, Indonesia, followed by inauguration ceremonies at

Coconut Research Institute (CRI) and Growrite Substrate Pvt Ltd in Sri Lanka on 19 May 2025. Seven interns from India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Solomon Islands, Indonesia, Thailand, and Papua New Guinea were placed at host institutions including PT House of Charcoal, CRI Sri Lanka, and Growrite.

The program, also supported by NAM-CSSTC, aims to build practical skills in processing, value addition, and entrepreneurship. Participants will develop Business Development Plans (BDPs) during their placements, which will be evaluated at year-end, with ICC sponsoring the best proposals for implementation.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/icc-successfully-launches-youth-empowerment-program-2025-internship-phase-in-sri-lanka>

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/internship-phase-of-the-youth-empowerment-program-in-coconut-industry-inaugurated-in-bogor-indonesia>

#### **1.4. 1<sup>st</sup> International COCOHEALTH Conference**

From 19–22 August 2025, ICC and the Coconut Development Board of India co-hosted the inaugural International COCOHEALTH Conference in Coimbatore, India, under the theme “*Coconut – Nature’s Treasure to Health*.” The event gathered over 150 in-person delegates and 85 online participants from seven countries, with 22 expert speakers and 13 poster presentations.

Technical sessions explored coconut’s role in metabolic health, cardiovascular wellness, antimicrobial applications, dermatology, and food fortification. ICC’s Scientific Advisory Committee on Health (SACH) conducted a closed group discussion and developed a 10-year roadmap (2026–2036) for validating therapeutic claims of coconut products such as VCO and coconut sugar. Field visits showcased activated carbon production and sustainable coconut-based farming models.

**Outcome:** The conference established a global platform for research collaboration, defined a clear agenda for clinical validation of health claims, and strengthened partnerships among scientists, regulators, and industry players.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/unveiling-coconuts-healing-potential-1st-international-cocohealth-conference-showcases-global-commitment-to-coconut-and-health>

#### **1.5. World Coconut Day 2025 Celebrations**

World Coconut Day 2025 was commemorated globally under the theme “*Uncovering Coconut’s Power, Inspiring Global Action*.” ICC and ICAR-CPCRI jointly hosted the International Workshop on Strengthening Coconut Genebanks for a Climate-Resilient and Sustainable Future at Kasaragod, India, from 2–5 September. The event included scientific sessions, flash talks by young researchers, and a visit to the International Coconut Genebank South Asia & Middle East.

In India, national coconut development schemes were revised to support productivity, seedling production, and diversification. Sri Lanka launched its Northern Coconut Triangle initiative targeting replanting in five districts, while the Philippines and several African



member countries conducted technology clinics, farmer recognition programs, and product showcases.

**Outcome:** The celebrations strengthened global awareness of coconut's socio-economic and environmental importance, renewed commitments for germplasm conservation, and produced recommendations that now inform ICC's 2026 program proposals.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/icc-cogent-workshop-in-india-marks-world-coconut-day-2025-with-a-focus-on-sustainable-and-resilient-international-coconut-genebanks>

## **2. Webinar& Meetings attended and Organized to promote the Sustainable Development of Coconut and the Positive Attributes of Coconuts and its Products.**

### **i. CABI's 2025 Meeting of Asia Pacific Countries (February 18 – 20)**

ICC participated in the CABI Regional Consultation held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, involving government agencies and technical experts from across the Asia-Pacific region. DG ICC presented the challenges posed by pest and disease outbreaks in coconut-producing countries and promoted integrated pest management strategies with reduced chemical dependency. ICC's contribution strengthened collaboration efforts with CABI and reinforced initiatives to build technical capacity to safeguard smallholder farmers' livelihoods.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/director-general-of-icc-participates-in-cabi-regional-consultative-meeting-in-malaysia>

### **ii. Attended to the UNESCAP 12<sup>th</sup> Sustainable Development Forum, Bangkok, Thailand (February 25 -26)**

During APFSD participated by DG and DDG, ICC emphasized the coconut sector's role in transforming food and energy systems, advancing climate resilience, and fostering sustainable rural development. ICC initiated strategic dialogue with UNESCAP on organizing a side event to further promote coconut's global contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This engagement reinforced the recognition of coconut as a key commodity supporting economic and environmental sustainability.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/icc-strengthens-engagement-with-unescap-at-the-12th-asia-pacific-sustainable-development-forum>

### **iii. Official visit to Japan (April 14 – 18)**

ICC undertook an official mission to Japan to explore wider opportunities for innovation and market development in partnership with both public and private institutions. The discussions focused on traceability and sustainability standards, activated carbon industry growth, high-value processing, bioenergy opportunities including sustainable aviation fuel pathways, and advanced biotechnology applications. The visit opened avenues for joint research, trade facilitation, and youth development through academic cooperation. DG, AFD and MSD included in the ICC delegation.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/global-partnerships-in-focus-japan-and-icc-lead-the-coconut-industry-toward-a-sustainable-future>

iv. Attended to a seminar in Bogor

ICC co-organized a national-level seminar in collaboration with Indonesia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, IPB University, and research institutes to address declining productivity and increase the resilience of coconut smallholders. The seminar highlighted advanced tissue culture technologies, climate-smart practices, and farm revitalization strategies as crucial enablers of future growth. The engagement resulted in strengthened alignment among stakeholders to accelerate downstream industrialization, promote quality planting material supply, and enhance farmer incomes.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/icc-and-ministry-of-foreign-affairs-advance-national-coconut-revitalization-in-bogor-seminar>

v. Attended to the National Coconut Workshop in Yogyakarta (July 17 – 18)

Director General and Directors participated in the National Coconut Workshop organized by PT. Riset Perkebunan Nusantara in Yogyakarta. The workshop brought together national and international stakeholders to discuss revitalization strategies for Indonesia's coconut industry. Following the event, the ICC delegation conducted field visits to community enterprises including *Rahman Lumantar Barokah PT.* and *Coconut Centre Indonesia* to observe innovative grassroots initiatives in coconut oil and coir production. The team commended these enterprises for promoting farmer empowerment, women's participation, and inclusive value-chain development. These visits reinforced ICC's commitment to fostering community-based innovation, small-enterprise capacity, and rural livelihood enhancement across member countries.

vi. Attending to the COCORISE Conference in Manila (July 29 – 31)

ICC contributed to the COCORISE National Coconut Research and Development Congress, organized by PCA & DOST-PCAARRD and other national partners in Manila, Philippines. The event gathered researchers, entrepreneurs, and government agencies to advance collaborative innovation for productivity enhancement, seed systems improvement, and commercialization of value-added products. The Director General presented during the congress on the topic "Bridging Innovation and Applications through Technology Transfer and Evidence-Based Policies." ICC's intervention emphasized the importance of linking research to actual industry transformation and promoted forthcoming international initiatives under the ICC-COGENT and YEP Frameworks. Discussions held on the margins of the Congress also opened new avenues for targeted replanting and technology transfer partnerships with the Philippines.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/icc-participated-in-the-2025-national-coconut-research-and-development-congress-in-the-philippines-and-strengthens-collaboration-with-the-philippine-coconut-authority>

- vii. Attended as a Moderator in the 17<sup>th</sup> Edition of EstCrops-Corner Webinar with Theme on “The Industrialization Potential of Coconut Genetic Resources” Organized by BRIN in Cibinong. (August 04)

DG ICC served as moderator at a scientific webinar organized by BRIN focusing on the industrialization potential of coconut genetic resources. Technical presentations from leading institutes, including ICAR-CPCRI, showcased advances in genomics, HDMSC systems, and biological control strategies. The webinar enhanced knowledge-sharing on emerging technologies and contributed to a stronger regional network of coconut biotechnology experts supporting ICC-COGENT efforts.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/indonesia-and-india-forge-path-to-coconut-innovation-at-estcrops-corner-17>

- viii. Eastern FKPTPI Meeting & International Conference Organized by the Faculty of Agriculture, Sam Ratulangi University. (August 07 – 08)

ICC actively participated in the InCAFEE conference hosted by Sam Ratulangi University, which emphasized innovation and collaboration across food, environment, and energy systems. ICC contributed to technical dialogues on in-vitro propagation, soil health, and downstream industrialization, while deepening partnerships with universities, research centers, and local government units. The conference reinforced momentum toward integrating climate-smart approaches into coconut development in eastern Indonesia. Director General presented on the “Global Scenario of the Coconut Sector” while Chairman of ICC – SACH, Dr. Fabian M. Dayrit spoke on “Benefits from the Coconut: From Nutrition to Functional Food to Therapy”. ITAG 4 member Dr. Rajesh M.K. presented on the topic “*Impact of Water Stress on Coconut and Breeding for Drought Tolerance*”.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/international-coconut-expertise-strengthens-collaboration-at-incafee-2025-manado>

- ix. Attended to the Riau Investment Forum

Market and Statistics Director representing ICC delivered a strategic presentation on global investment opportunities in the coconut industry, addressing high-value processing, renewable energy, activated carbon, and circular-economy business models. The event engaged government officials, investors, and commercial stakeholders, encouraging increased capital flow into value-adding coconut ventures that can significantly improve farmer incomes and employment. The dialogue also positioned coconut as a vital commodity within regional green investment initiatives.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/icc-showcases-global-coconut-investment-opportunities-at-riau-investment-forum>

- x. Attended to the Webinar Organized by the PCA in celebration of National Coconut Week (August 26)

Staff of the ICC Secretariat including DG, DDG and Directors attended to the Coconut Research & Development Webinar and organized by the Philippines Coconut Authority in celebration of the 39<sup>th</sup> Coconut Week. The program aimed to update

stakeholders, particularly coconut farmers, on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies, while also providing technical assistance and raising awareness of research-based innovations.

- xi. Attended to the COCOLINARYA and National Coconut Week in Philippines by MSD and Secretary

ICC took part in the 39<sup>th</sup> National Coconut Week celebrations in Manila, hosting multiple public engagement and promotional activities. ICC's participation helped advocate for increased value addition and consumer confidence in coconut-based products. The celebration also strengthened visibility for ICC's international programs and reinforced collaboration with PCA and key industry players.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/icc-actively-participates-in-the-39th-national-coconut-week-in-manila>

- xii. World Coconut Day Celebrations in Sri Lanka (September 02)

Deputy Director General representing Director General participated in the World Coconut Day in Sri Lanka, which was celebrated with the launch of the Northern Coconut Triangle initiative and significant government investment for revitalization of coconut plantations. ICC commended Sri Lanka's commitment to long-term sector development, emphasizing its alignment with ICC's regional productivity improvement goals. The occasion graced by the H. E. the President of Sri Lanka, provided a platform to highlight biosecurity, replanting, and genetic resource capacity-building priorities.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/launch-of-the-northern-coconut-triangle-marks-world-coconut-day-2025-in-sri-lanka>

- xiii. Participated as a Resource Speaker at the Forum Group Discussion (FGD) on the Potential for Competitive and Sustainable Utilization of Coconut Biomass organized by IPB University, Bogor (September 09)

Director General of ICC served as a resource speaker at a high-level forum organized by IPB University on enhancing the competitiveness and sustainability of coconut biomass conversion. DG emphasized the importance of resource efficiency, downstream industrialization, and environmentally responsible value addition. The discussion supported the broader push for renewable energy solutions and material innovation that can elevate farmer incomes while contributing to climate action through supported coconut downstream policies.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/icc-director-general-highlights-potential-of-coconut-biomass-at-ipb-university-forum>

- xiv. Attended to the 4<sup>th</sup> World Coconut Congress and Sustainable Coconut Roundtable 2025 in Manila, Philippines by TWG Chair and DDG (September 24-26)

ICC's Technical Working Group Chair and Deputy Director General actively represented ICC in the World Coconut Congress and the Sustainable Coconut Roundtable. ICC contributed perspectives on addressing global supply constraints, promoting resilient seed systems, and advancing regional cooperation. The event drew 500+ participants from government, research, industry, and sustainability organizations under the theme "Future-Proofing the Coconut." ICC's engagement contributed to the multi-stakeholder dialogue on supply, social, and sustainability challenges and strengthened cooperation with regional partners on practical solutions for sector resilience. It strengthened ICC's engagement with both the industry leaders and sustainability advocates across the global coconut supply chain.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/icc-highlights-supply-side-strategies-and-regional-cooperation-at-world-coconut-congress-2025-in-manila>

- xv. Attended to the prestigious Europe Sustainability Summit in Frankfurt, Germany (September 23)

At the amfori Europe Sustainability Summit held in Frankfurt, ICC advanced the coconut sector's case within Europe's green-economy agenda, emphasizing responsible business, ESG standards, and resilient supply chains. The participation by the ICC Director General positioned the coconut more prominently in discussions on sustainable trade and collaboration with European partners and helped position the coconut more prominently within Europe's sustainability policy discussions.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/global-green-economy-icc-drives-coconut-sustainability-and-pacific-collaboration>

- xvi. Attended to a Business Forum on during the Osaka Expo 2025 by MSD to promote non-standard coconut-based Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) as a renewable energy solution (October 9 -12)

ICC supported business matchmaking activities and promoted technological pathways for converting non-standard coconuts into SAF. The event enhanced cross-sector partnerships and strengthened the case for coconut-based bioenergy in global aviation decarbonization initiatives. The session, led by ICC's Market & Statistics Director, outlined cooperation with Indonesian and Japanese counterparts and noted a key milestone: in March 2024, non-standard coconuts were recognized as a potential SAF feedstock under ICAO-CORSIA. The forum strengthened cooperation and investor interest in coconut-based green energy initiatives.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/icc-highlights-coconut-based-sustainable-aviation-fuel-development-at-osaka-expo-2025-business-forum>

- xvii. Attended to a high-level discussion on the future of Indonesia's coconut sector hosted by Indonesia's Ministry of National Development Planning in Yogyakarta (October 10)

ICC joined a high-level policy discussion hosted by Indonesia's Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS) in Yogyakarta, underscoring the urgent need for research and technology to revitalize the sector. The dialogue addressed Indonesia's long-term downstreaming roadmap, the seedling "gap," and the centrality of tissue culture for rapid, high-quality propagation. ICC's contribution, led by the Director General and the team, including the Information and Publication Director and the Admin & Finance Director, reinforced the case for coordinated R&D, capacity building, and technology transfer to support large-scale replanting and sector transformation.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/icc-underlines-urgent-need-for-research-and-technology-to-save-coconut-industry>

- xviii. Attended to a high-level seminar titled "Business Potential of Indonesian Commodities through International Negotiations" during the Indonesia Trade Expo 2025 (October 18)

ICC Director General participated as a key speaker in a seminar organized by Indonesia's Ministry of Trade during the Trade Expo Indonesia 2025. The session highlighted the growing importance of the coconut sector in global markets, where Dr. Alouw presented ICC's strategies to enhance competitiveness through sustainable raw-material supply, technology innovation, and value-added product diversification. The discussion underscored coconut's contribution to international trade, renewable energy, and rural development, reaffirming ICC's role in advancing global market access for member countries.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/icc-director-general-highlights-coconut-sectors-potential-at-the-2025-trade-expo-indonesia>

### **3. Dialogues and Communications with NLOs and ICC Member Countries**

- i. Meeting with NLO Indonesia to discuss about the new Cocosphere proposal. DDG and Directors participated. (January 17)

Director General, Deputy Director General, and Directors had a meeting with Mr. Djatmiko, DG, Ministry of Trade, NLO for ICC, Indonesia, to discuss the proposed Cocosphere project and how the government of Indonesia can contribute to the project. Cocosphere is a transformative initiative that combines innovation, sustainability, and education in the coconut sector, and its role is to act as a centralized hub for stakeholders, public engagement, and knowledge dissemination. Former ANLO of Indonesia, Mr. Riza Pahlevi also participated in the discussion.

- ii. Virtual Meeting with NLO Sri Lanka office to discuss their request for technical assistant in new planting. (January 24)

ICC secretariat attended to a virtual meeting with the Ministry of Plantation and Community Infrastructure with the participation of Mr. Prabhath Chandrakeerthi, NLO of ICC for Sri Lanka. The purpose of the meeting is to explore how ICC can support

the new planting program initiated by the Government of Sri Lanka in the non-traditional coconut cultivation areas.

- iii. Meeting with PCA officials to discuss regarding the preparation for COCOTECH 2026 to be held in the Philippines (February 06)

DG, DDG, and Directors attended to a virtual meeting with PCA Deputy Administrator for Research and Development, Mr. Roy Devesa to discuss the preparations for the COCOTECH 2026 to be held in Manila, Philippines.

- iv. Meeting with DG, MoT and presented the two proposals to DG. Directors also attended. (February 24)

As a continued effort to secure the external funding for “Cocosphere project” and the “Revitalization of the International Coconut Genebank – South East Asia and East Asia (ICG-SEA) “ project, ICC Director General presented the two proposals in detail to Mr. Djatmiko, DG, Ministry of Trade, NLO for ICC, Indonesia.

- v. Courtesy Meeting with Thai NLO/ICC Chairman at DoA (February 28)

During the 12<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development in Bangkok, IDirector General and Deputy Director General held a courtesy meeting with Thailand’s National Liaison Officer and ICC Chairman Dr. Wilaiwan Kraikruan at the Department of Agriculture. They discussed strengthening ICC–Thailand collaboration, presented ICC’s flagship Youth Empowerment Programme and the “Coconut 101” knowledge hub initiative, and engaged Thai industry leaders on raw-material constraints and sustainable production solutions. A preceding field visit to aromatic coconut farms and processing enterprises underscored Thailand’s breeding and sustainability credentials. The visit reinforced ICC’s commitment to technical support, farmer-led innovation and closer cooperation with Thailand’s coconut sector.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/icc-director-general-visits-icc-chairman-and-thailands-national-liaison-officer-to-strengthen-collaboration>

- vi. Meeting with ANLO Indonesia at MoT, Indonesia (March 10)

DG, DDG, and Directors attended a courtesy meeting with the newly appointed Alternate National Liaison Officer of ICC for Indonesia, Mr. Nathan Kambuno. DG ICC presented the structure and programs of the ICC, and new ANLO extended full collaboration and support for the ICC activities.

- vii. Courtesy meeting with NLO Tonga and attended some field visits to coconut industries (May 27)

During the 10<sup>th</sup> Regional Meeting of the Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services (PHOAFS) in Nuku’alofa, Tonga, ICC renewed engagement with the Kingdom of Tonga through a dedicated discussion with its National Liaison Officer (NLO) Dr. Villiam T. Manu. ICC Director General reaffirmed support for region-wide sustainable coconut practices, highlighted the coconut sector’s role in climate resilience and food security, and agreed on closer coordination of knowledge-sharing initiatives under

the youth and genetic-resources programs. The meeting underscored ICC's ongoing commitment to strengthening partnerships and implementation of coconut-related development priorities in the Pacific.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/icc-participates-in-the-10th-phoafs-and-4th-pmaf-meetings-in-tonga-strengthening-partnerships-for-the-future-of-the-coconut-sector>

viii. Courtesy Meeting with NLO Philippines (July 30)

During the NCRDC held in Manila, Director General and Deputy Director-General conducted a high-level meeting with the NLO, Dr. Dexter R. Buted, Administrator of the Philippine Coconut Authority. The discussion focused on advancing the Philippines' replanting initiative to install 100 million coconut palms by 2028, scaling tissue-culture propagation of elite planting material, and strengthening the ICC-PCA collaboration ahead of the 52<sup>nd</sup> International COCOTECH Conference in 2026. The meeting reaffirmed ICC's role as a technical partner in genetic resources, R&D, and technology transfer for member countries.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/icc-participated-in-the-2025-national-coconut-research-and-development-congress-in-the-philippines-and-strengthens-collaboration-with-the-philippine-coconut-authority>

ix. Industry Visit with PNG Delegation (August 18)

During the COCOHEALTH Conference held in Coimbatore, India, a delegation from Papua New Guinea, led by NLO Mr Alan Aku, participated in a special industry visit arranged by ICC and CDB - India, which included stops at Marico Ltd, Essar Engineers, and T&I Global. They observed large-scale coconut equipment and processing operations, discussed value-addition pathways, and exchanged ideas on scaling up industrial capacity in the Pacific region. ICC used the visit to strengthen technical cooperation and promote youth and technology-led transformation in PNG's coconut sector.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/unveiling-coconuts-healing-potential-1st-international-cocohealth-conference-showcases-global-commitment-to-coconut-and-health>

x. courtesy meeting with the Consul General of the Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines to Indonesia. (September 15)

H. E. Gonaranao B. Musor, Charge d'Affaires of the embassy of the Republic of the Philippines, paid a courtesy visit to the ICC Secretariat, accompanied by Ms. Maricar S. Yambao, Second Secretary (Economic) of the embassy. H.E. Gonaranao commended the commitment and leadership of the ICC and wishes to explore opportunities and areas of deeper cooperation, as ICC is a strategic partner for the Philippines because of the importance of the coconut in the life of Filipinos.



- xi. Virtual Coordination meeting with the DOA / HRI, Thailand, regarding the preparations for the 61<sup>st</sup> Session and Ministerial Meeting (September 16)

Director General and secretariat staff attended a series of coordination meetings with DOA / HRI of Thailand to finalize the arrangements and preparations for the 61<sup>st</sup> ICC Session meeting.

**4. Linkages with United Nations Bodies and International Partner Organizations Foster Expansion of membership of the community**

- i. Visited to NAM office and had a meeting with NAM staff (January 22)

Director General and the ICC staff paid a courtesy visit to the office of the NAM-CSSTC to discuss the potential collaboration with NAM, especially for the ICC Youth Empowerment Program.

- ii. Meeting with Mr. Gregory, Executive Director of SCP. DDG, AFD, MSD and IPD also participated (January 23)

Mr. Gregory Berdies, Executive Director, Sustainable Coconut Partnership, paid a visit to the ICC Secretariat to discuss the sustainable coconut program and the potential collaboration with ICC.

- iii. Courtesy Meeting with H. E. Dr. Armida, Executive Secretary of UNESCAP (February 26)

At the 12<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) in Bangkok, the ICC was represented by DG and DDG who underscored the coconut sector's pivotal role in advancing food security, renewable energy, climate resilience and sustainable rural livelihoods. A bilateral courtesy meeting held with Dr. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), resulted in agreement to prepare a joint side event titled *"Harnessing the Potential of Coconut for Food and Energy Security: Sustainable Solutions for a Resilient Future"*, thereby elevating ICC's strategic engagement with the regional sustainability agenda.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/icc-strengthens-engagement-with-unescap-at-the-12th-asia-pacific-sustainable-development-forum>

- iv. Courtesy meeting with the IFAD Country Director at the IFAD country office, Indonesia. DDG, MSD and AFD also participated. (April 11)

During a strategic meeting in Jakarta ICC and Country Director of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Indonesia discussed partnership opportunities to enhance smallholder coconut value chains, improve farmer incomes and scale up innovative financing. The ICC delegation, led by Director General, presented ICC's forthcoming programmes for improved planting material, youth empowerment and global market diversification, and engaged IFAD in dialogue on funding mechanisms, capacity-building frameworks and regional implementation plans.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/icc-explores-strategic-collaboration-with-ifad-indonesia-to-strengthen-coconut-sector>

v. Attended to 81<sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission (April 21 – 24)

At the 81<sup>st</sup> Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) in Bangkok, ICC was represented by Director General and Deputy Director General, who emphasized coconut's multi-functional role in food security, renewable energy and climate resilience. During the session ICC engaged with senior UN delegates and multiple country representatives, consolidating its role within the regional sustainable-development dialogue and reinforcing the relevance of coconut in the Asia-Pacific policy agenda.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/icc-hosted-key-side-event-at-the-81st-session-of-the-unescap-commission-harnessing-the-potential-of-coconut-for-food-and-energy-security>

vi. Virtual meeting with CIRAD, ACIAR and other stakeholders of the COCODIV Project (April 30)

Director General, Deputy Director General and Admin & Finance Director attended to a virtual meeting with CIRAD, ACIAR and other stakeholders of COCODIV project. The objective of the meeting is to finalize the agreement to be signed between the parties and identify and distinguish the responsibilities of each party.

vii. 10<sup>th</sup> Pacific Heads of Agriculture meeting & 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Pacific Ministers of Agriculture (May 27 - 30)

ICC actively participated in the 10<sup>th</sup> Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services (PHOAFS) and the 4<sup>th</sup> Pacific Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (PMAF) meetings held in Nuku'alofa, Tonga. Represented by Director General and Deputy Director General, ICC contributed to high-level discussions on the role of coconut in regional food security, climate resilience, and livelihood development. The meetings provided a vital platform for aligning Pacific agricultural strategies with ICC's global programs, strengthening partnerships with member countries, and reinforcing commitment to sustainable and inclusive coconut-sector growth.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/icc-participates-in-the-10th-phoafs-and-4th-pmaf-meetings-in-tonga-strengthening-partnerships-for-the-future-of-the-coconut-sector>

viii. Meeting with Dutch Climate Fund (Virtual) (July 04)

ICC attended a courtesy meeting with the Dutch Fund for Climate Development (DFCD) to explore new collaboration opportunities, especially on funding opportunities for coconut industries in member countries.

**5. Meetings with TWG, SACH, Farmer's Organization and Industry representatives**

- i. ICC attended to a virtual meeting with CDB, India and SACH members regarding the planning of the upcoming international seminar on clinical studies and the health aspect of coconut (January 24)
- ii. Attended to the event of signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between PB University and Roemah Kelapa Indonesia (RoeKI). IPB University and Roemah Kelapa Indonesia (RoeKI) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU). The RoeKI management was received by Prof. Ernan Rustiadi, IPB University's Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation, and Agromaritime Development. On this occasion, IPB University and RoeKI are committed to establishing cooperation related to the tridharma of higher education including education, research, and community service. The MoU signing ceremony was held in the Academic Senate Meeting Room, IPB Dramaga Campus. Delivered a speech during the ceremony. DG of ICC attended and gave a speech at this ceremony. (January 31)
- iii. Director General and Market & Statistics Director attended to a meeting with House of Coconut (Ruma Kelapa) and other Coconut industries to discuss on the new market opportunities. (February 10 - 11)
- iv. Director General attended to a meeting with Coconut value-added product Exporters in the secretariat. Discussion is on the new market segments and emerging products in the world market. (February 14)
- v. Director General and Deputy Director General attended to a meeting with Thai Coconut Industries at the Horticulture Research Institute in Thailand. The discussion focused on several key issues the coconut industry is facing, including raw material scarcity. (February 28)
- vi. Director General and Secretariat staff attended to a virtual meeting with CRI Sri Lanka regarding the arrangements for YEP Phase II - Internship. CRI agreed to host the trainees from the Youth Empowerment program on tissue culture and coir processing technologies. (March 11)
- vii. Director General, Deputy Director General and Directors visited to the House of Charcoal Indonesia, Bogor to discuss the arrangements for Youth Empowerment Program Internship. (March 12)
- viii. Director General and Market and Statistics Director attended to a Focus Group Discussion in Bappenas (March 13)
- ix. Secretariat organized the inaugural meeting with the new ICC-SACH team. Discussed regarding the upcoming International COCOHEALTH Conference in India, and possible publication with Springer publishers regarding the health aspects of coconut. SACH members and officials from the Coconut Development Board of India also participated. (March 27)
- x. ICC attended the kick off meeting for development of SAF Inspector Manual with BRIN and GPDJ (April 30)
- xi. Secretariat organized back-to-back virtual meetings with CPCRI India and CDB India on organizing the World Coconut Day 2025 and 1st COCOHEALTH conference (May 16)

- xii. Director General, Deputy Director General and Directors attended to the MoU Signing Ceremony with BRIN in Bogor. The objective of the MoU is to advance scientific cooperation between ICC and Indonesia's national research body (BRIN) in the coconut sector, supporting innovation, genetic improvement, and knowledge sharing for the benefit of member countries and the global coconut industry. (June 26)
- xiii. Director General, DDG and Directors attended to a progress review meeting with BRIN officials and IJBNET regarding the development of the Training Manual for SAF inspectors (July 16 and July 23)
- xiv. Director General and Market & Statistics Director attended to a meeting with Dr. Kuntoro Andri in the Ministry of Agriculture regarding the way forward for ICG-SEA (July 24)
- xv. ICC co-organized a roundtable meeting with leading coconut industries of Indonesia, India, and Sri Lanka in collaboration with the Dutch Climate Fund to discuss providing financing options for coconut industries. (August 12)

## **6. International Coconut Genetic Resource Network**

- i. ITAG Coordination meeting (July 08)

ICC Secretariat convened a virtual coordination meeting of its Coconut Genetic Resources Network (COGENT) International Thematic Action Groups (ITAGs) on 8 July 2025, bringing together global scientists, genebank managers and technical partners to align thematic strategies and set priorities for 2025–2026. During the opening, ICC Director General highlighted the urgency of coordinated international action in genetic resource conservation amid aging plantations, emerging pests and climate change. The meeting reviewed progress of all four ITAGs and approved a unified DNA sampling protocol and a roadmap for upcoming collaborative workshops and research initiatives. This event reinforced ICC's role as the central technical convener for coconut genetic-resource programs and prepared the ground for scalable capacity building across member countries.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/icc-cogent-itag-coordination-meeting-strengthens-global-scientific-collaboration-for-coconut-genetic-resources>

- ii. International Workshop on Strengthening Coconut Genebanks (September 1 -5)

At the joint ICC-COGENT workshop coinciding with World Coconut Day 2025, experts and delegates from 14 countries gathered at CPCRI, Kasaragod, to develop strategies for improving the resilience of international coconut genebanks and harmonizing germplasm management protocols. The event featured sessions on bio-security, climate-resilient variety evaluation and germplasm exchange mechanisms, underlining ICC's pivotal role in building scientific capacity and technical frameworks for sustainable coconut genetic resource management.

<https://coconutcommunity.org/news-page/icc-cogent-workshop-in-india-marks-world-coconut-day-2025-with-a-focus-on-sustainable-and-resilient-international-coconut-genebanks>

- iii. Virtual coordination meetings with FAO, Crop Trust and ICGs.

Director General and Secretariat staff organized and attended series of coordination meetings with FAO, Crop Trust and ICGs / NCGs to discuss on genebank development, data management and pest and diseases.

- iv. ICC COGENT Explores Deeper Collaboration on Tissue Culture and Genetic Resources at Alliance Bioversity & CIAT (September 25)

Director General visited the Alliance of Bioversity International & CIAT Tropical Crop Improvement Laboratory at KU Leuven's Department of Biosystems, where she met with Dr Bartholomeus Panis to explore strategic collaboration on coconut tissue culture and germplasm conservation. The visit opened pathways for ICC to strengthen joint research and knowledge-exchange platforms in in-vitro culture and cryopreservation of coconut genetic resources, aligning with ICC's global agenda for resilient and sustainable coconut production.

## **7. Dissemination & Publications**

The ICC Secretariat has continually disseminated coconut-related information and technologies through its regular publications and media, namely:

- a. Weekly Price Update - ICC provides weekly price updates to all member countries which include the global prices for coconut products like coconut oil, copra, desiccated coconut, coconut (husked), coconut shell charcoal, coir fiber etc. Prices of competing vegetable oils like palm kernel oil and crude palm oil are also provided. Information on prevailing global prices would aid in better decision making by the coconut farmers and processors in member countries.
- b. Cocommunity – This is the monthly Newsletter of the ICC Secretariat. The Executive Director presents her monthly editorial in this Newsletter titled “Executive Director Speaks”. Other sections include Community News, Market and Coconut Technology News, Bio-Diesel News, News on Other Vegetable Oils, Business Opportunities, Prices of Coconut Products, Statistics and Market Analysis. All NLOs are encouraged to share coconut industry news articles to the Secretariat for publication in Cocommunity.
- c. COCOINFO International – This is a semi-annual popular journal for the general public focusing on coconut cultivation, product processing and marketing. Emphasis is given to emerging high-valued added coconut products for export including new technologies on coconut processing, current issues and market trends.
- d. CORD – This is the annual technical journal solely devoted on completed work on coconut research and development. The journal has been upgraded as a peer reviewed-Journal following an Open Journal System. To improve the quality of CORD Journal, the International Coconut Community has recently launched the website specifically designated for CORD and the journal has been indexed in DOAJ, Portal Garuda; Google Scholar; soon in Web of Science, Scopus, and other reputable indexing agencies to get international recognition.
- e. Coconut Statistical Yearbook – This annual publication presents the latest available statistical data of the world coconut industry. All NLO's are requested to facilitate the submission of their country's updated statistics to the ICC Secretariat, annually. A

Statistic webpage has been developed to present interactive features, which allow the users or member countries to conduct basic and advanced analysis data.

- f. Directory of Coconut Traders (Exporters/Importers) and Equipment Manufacturers.
- g. COGENT Newsletter. This is an annual newsletter covering the programs and projects of COGENT activities.
- h. Social Media (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, Youtube)

ICC publications can also be ordered online, including registration/additional listing of new coconut processors, traders, and exporters.

## **8. Governance and Administrative Matters**

- a. Continuing management approach towards professionalism and discipline on punctuality, attendance, and submission of quality work outputs by the ICC Secretariat Staff shall be pursued.
- b. Monthly meetings of the ICC secretariat used to conduct to review the progress of programs and action to be initiated for the welfare of the community.
- c. Annual performance evaluation will continue to be implemented to motivate the staff towards excellence and quality work outputs, for the benefit of the ICC member countries. Communications at the ICC Secretariat (e.g. replies to letters and e-mails) are acted promptly.
- d. A monthly review of office disbursements and income will continue to be done to ensure proper accountability and transparency of financial management procedures consistent with the international accepted accounting/auditing standards and the ICC Secretariat Rules & Regulations.
- e. Regular and friendly reminders to all NLO's of the member countries are also done and will continue to be done to ensure early remittance of the annual membership contribution to the ICC Secretariat.
- f. Maintaining a close collaboration with NLO's of the member countries to enable timely compilation of country statistics for the publication of the Annual Yearbook.

Regular updates of the ICC Website ([www.coconutcommunity.org](http://www.coconutcommunity.org)) will be maintained. Weekly prices of coconut products such as coconut oil, desiccated coconut, coconut shell charcoal, coir fiber, and its competing products such as palm oil kernel, crude palm oil, palm olein, palm oil stearin and soybean oil are uploaded on the website in the exclusive Statistics webpage.

**SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED PROGRAM AND ACTIVITIES FOR CY 2026**

**i. Events, Conferences and Meetings to be organized by the ICC during 2026**

- a. 62<sup>nd</sup> ICC Session & Ministerial Meeting in India (dates and venue to be confirmed).
- b. 52<sup>nd</sup> International COCOTECH Conference and Exhibition in collaboration with the Philippines Coconut Authority, Government of the Philippines.
- c. World Coconut Day Celebrations official event in Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia, in collaboration with the Government of North Sulawesi & Sam Ratulangi University, Manado, and programs in member countries.
- d. Side Event on Harnessing the Potential of Coconut for Sustainable Development during the 13<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, Bangkok, Thailand.
- e. Tissue Culture Knowledge exchange program in collaboration with ICC COGENT-International Thematic Action group (ITAG) 4.
- f. Capacity building program as per the needs of member countries.
- g. Workshop for developing the ICC Strategic Plan for 2026 -2030.
- h. Online training and webinars.
- i. Scientific Advisory Committee on Health meetings to review projects on clinical studies on coconut products.
- j. Technical Working Group meeting to develop projects for external donor funding for Member countries and to review the plan of activities.

**ii. Events, Conferences, and meetings to be participated during 2026**

- a. 13<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, Bangkok, Thailand.
- b. COCOWEEK, August 2026, Manila, Philippines.
- c. Technical Symposium and Workshops jointly with the respective host Country.
- d. The 82<sup>nd</sup> Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) in April 2026.

**iii. Projects**

- a. Establishment of the multi-year initiative to create a robust and interoperable data system for all ICGs and NCGs in collaboration with FAO and Crop Trust.
- b. Biosecurity Protocol update program and structured Coconut Germplasm Exchange Program among ICC member countries.
- c. Upgrade ICT systems, improve capacity & capability of the Secretariat to respond effectively to stakeholder requirements.
- d. Social Media Networking through Coconut Google Group, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
- e. Promotion and awareness with new membership drive.

- iv. Projects in Collaboration with International Donors (proposal-based projects)**
- a. COCODIV Project - A collaborative project to characterize the genetic diversity of coconut in Pacific and Southeast Asian countries, with a particular focus on the exchange of knowledge and resources in collaboration with CIRAD funded by ACIAR.
  - b. R&D, biodiversity on coconut agroecosystem.
  - c. Revitalization of the International and National Coconut GeneBank in collaboration with Crop Trust.
  - d. Development of Mobile Application (Mobile App) for market and quality standard information in collaboration with international donor.
  - e. Development of Mobile App for identification and management of major coconut pests and diseases, in collaboration with international donor.
  - f. Continuation of the Coccopest Portal: Information portal for major pests and diseases of coconut with CAB International.
  - g. Implementation of Coconut Tissue Culture, Molecular Marking, and data management programs with CIRAD.
- v. Preparation of Regular and Ad-Hoc Publications:**
- a. Cocommunity (Monthly Newsletter)
  - b. COCOINFO INTERNATIONAL (semi-annual journal on the industry to become quarterly)
  - c. CORD (Annual journal on R&D) to be indexed in Web of Science and Scopus
  - d. COGENT Newsletter (Annual)
  - e. Annual Statistical Yearbook
  - f. Quarterly Statistics Bulletin
  - g. ICC Secretariat Annual Report.
  - h. Proceedings of conferences and symposiums (indexed in Scopus)
  - i. Posters and Flyers
  - j. Videos



## AGENDA ITEM 9.1

### 52<sup>ND</sup> INTERNATIONAL COCOTECH CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

List of Documents  
ICC SESSION-LXI-2025/009.1

## **Agenda Item 9.1: 52<sup>nd</sup> International COCOTECH Conference & Exhibition**

### **Purpose**

To inform the Session of Delegates about the upcoming 52<sup>nd</sup> ICC International COCOTECH Conference and Exhibition to be conducted in September 2026, in Manila, Philippines, and to seek their endorsement of the proposed conference theme.

### **Facts & Considerations**

1. The COCOTECH Conference & Exhibition, which serves as ICC's technical Panel, is held biennially. The government of the Philippines, through the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), has graciously agreed to host the 52<sup>nd</sup> ICC International COCOTECH Conference and Exhibition in Manila, Philippines, in September 2026. Letters attached.
2. Details:
  - a) The conference will be held in 1<sup>st</sup> week of September in Manila, Philippines. Official venue to be allocated later.
  - b) During the Technical Working Group and Pre-Session Review Committee Meeting held virtually on 14<sup>th</sup> November, Mr. Roel M. Rosales, Co-Chair of the Technical Working Group and Deputy Administrator of the Philippine Coconut Authority, proposed three potential themes for consideration at the 52<sup>nd</sup> International COCOTECH Conference and Exhibition. These themes were evaluated by the members of the Technical Working Group in attendance.
  - c) After carefully evaluating the feedback provided by the members of the Technical Working Group (TWG), four themes have been officially designated as potential themes for the 52<sup>nd</sup> International COCOTECH Conference & Exhibition:
    - i. *"Resilient Coconut Landscapes: Modernization, Collaboration and Sustainability for a Stronger Global Industry"*
    - ii. *"Harnessing Local Knowledge and Global Best Practices for a Resilient and Sustainable Coconut Industry"*
    - iii. *"Strengthening the Coconut Powerhouse through Modernization, Collaboration, and Sustainability for a Stronger Global Industry"*
    - iv. *"Resilient Coconut Landscapes: Empowering the Coconut Powerhouse through Modernization, Collaboration, and Sustainability"*
  - d) The secretariat welcomes any inputs or suggestions, and Session of Delegates may decide the final theme for the 52<sup>nd</sup> International COCOTECH Conference & Exhibition.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended for the Session of Delegates and members present to endorse the proposed theme for the 52<sup>nd</sup> International COCOTECH Conference & Exhibition. The Philippine Delegate in the Session may provide further input.



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
**PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY**  
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City 1101 Philippines  
Tel. Nos.: (02) 8928-4501 to 09 · Direct Line: (02) 8926-7631  
Website: pca.gov.ph

31 January 2025

**DR. JELFINA C. ALOUW**  
Executive Director  
International Coconut Community  
Jakarta, Indonesia

Dear *Exec. Dir. Alouw*,

Greetings from the Philippine Coconut Authority!

The undersigned presents its compliments to the International Coconut Community (ICC) Secretariat and extends its sincere appreciation for the opportunity to host the **52<sup>nd</sup> International COCOTECH Conference & Exhibition** in 2026.

We are pleased to confirm our acceptance of the offer to host this prestigious event. The PCA recognizes the significance of the event in bringing together key stakeholders in the coconut industry to share advancements, best practices, and innovations for sustainable development. The Philippines, as one of the leading coconut-producing nations in the world, is honored to facilitate this important gathering.


Given the urgency of coordinating with our Department of Foreign Affairs regarding PCA's official hosting, we request a meeting with the ICC Secretariat within the first week of February 2025 to discuss the necessary arrangements. Kindly share your preferred schedule, and we will finalize the details accordingly.

For any inquiries and concerns regarding this partnership, please do not hesitate to contact our staff, Ms. Czarina Mae B. Enarsao through the email address: [pca.ofad@gmail.com](mailto:pca.ofad@gmail.com) or Whatsapp: +63 9173732957.

We look forward to working closely with the ICC to ensure the success of the 52<sup>nd</sup> COCOTECH Conference & Exhibition.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
**DEXTER R. BUTED**  
Administrator & CEO



*Masaganang Agrikultura, Maunlad na Ekonomiya*

## AGENDA ITEM 9.2

### MAJOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR 2026

List of Documents  
ICC SESSION-LXI-2025/009.2

## **Agenda Item 9.2: Major International Programs for 2026**

### **Purpose**

To inform the Session of Delegates about the major international programs of ICC and COGENT for 2026.

### **Facts & Considerations**

#### **1. Bio Security Protocol update**

- I. The current approach to biosecurity remains fragmented, exposing the global coconut germplasm network to significant risk of pest and disease outbreaks that could cause severe economic losses. Existing protocols do not fully reflect modern scientific advancements, and several member countries lack national-level biosecurity guidelines.
- II. This program aims to create a comprehensive, science-based framework to update existing protocols, establish harmonized guidelines across all member countries, and strengthen national capacities to prevent and respond to biosecurity threats.

#### **Expected Outputs**

- **Revised Unified Biosecurity Protocol:** A scientifically updated and endorsed protocol with clear, actionable guidelines for safe germplasm exchange and pest/disease prevention.
- **Functional Germplasm Exchange System:** A compliant, transparent system that restores trust and facilitates safe international exchanges of coconut genetic material.
- **Capacity Building:** Training workshops and technical assistance for national plant protection and quarantine teams.
- **Increased Awareness:** Advocacy and outreach to raise understanding of biosecurity's role in safeguarding global coconut production and genetic diversity.

#### **2. Coconut Tissue Culture Technology Optimization & Knowledge Exchange**

- I. Member countries face persistent challenges in the timely propagation of high-quality coconut planting materials. Traditional breeding methods are slow, taking decades to release new varieties, while pests and diseases are increasingly reducing yields. Coconut tissue culture (CTC) is a critical biotechnology that enables rapid, large-scale production of uniform, disease-free planting material, but progress has been hampered by limited standardization and uneven capacity across countries.
- II. This program aims to optimize coconut tissue culture technology through coordinated research, standardization of protocols, and capacity building. It also seeks to establish a global knowledge exchange platform to enable collaborative learning, troubleshooting, and dissemination of best practices.

### **Expected Outputs**

- **Technical Capacity Building:** Hands-on workshops, training programs, and webinars to train researchers, technicians, and industry partners across member countries.
- **Optimized and Validated CTC Protocols:** Development of standardized and user-friendly tissue culture protocols (e.g., somatic embryogenesis, zygotic embryo culture) tailored to diverse varieties and environments.
- **Functional Knowledge Hub:** Creation of an online platform and expert network to share updates, provide mentorship, and facilitate collaborative research.

### **3. The World Coconut Day Celebrations 2026**

World Coconut Day (WCD), celebrated annually on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, marks the founding of ICC and serves as a global platform to showcase the importance of the coconut sector. Following the successful celebrations in Gorontalo (2023), Papua New Guinea (2024), and India (2025), ICC is pleased to announce that North Sulawesi, Indonesia has been proposed to host WCD 2026 in collaboration with the Government of Manado/North Sulawesi and Sam Ratulangi University (UNSRAT).

#### **The primary objectives of WCD 2026 are to:**

- Celebrate the contribution of the coconut sector to food security, rural livelihoods, and the global economy.
- Provide a platform for knowledge exchange, international collaboration, and stakeholder networking.
- Promote innovation, technology adoption, and value addition across the coconut value chain.
- Strengthen North Sulawesi's visibility as a global hub for coconut research, production, and trade.

#### **Main Elements of the Event**

The WCD 2026 celebration will be a 2–3 day event (extendable to 4 days), with the main ceremony taking place on 2 September 2026. The event will include:

- **Opening Ceremony:** With participation of government leaders, international guests, and farmers, including award presentations and a symbolic coconut planting pledge.
- **International Conference/Seminar:** Technical sessions on planting material, pest and disease management, product diversification, trade, finance, and youth innovation.
- **Exhibition & Trade Fair:** Showcasing coconut varieties, MSME products, and research outputs, with opportunities for B2B meetings, demonstrations, and product tastings.
- **Competitions:** ICC global competitions (photography, videography, product innovation) and local events (cooking, student poster contests).

- **Field Visits:** Delegates will visit farms, MSME processing sites, and industries in Minahasa, Bitung, and surrounding areas.
- **Cultural and Culinary Program:** Cultural performances, artisan markets, and culinary showcases featuring coconut-based products.
- **Business Matching:** Structured B2B sessions connecting MSMEs and farmer groups with international buyers and investors.

ICC's Responsibilities include international coordination, sponsorship of international speakers, provision of plaques/awards, global competition management, facilitation of international exhibitors, and promotion through ICC media channels.

#### **Expected Outcomes**

- **Tangible Benefits for Farmers & MSMEs:** Market access, exposure to new technologies, and entrepreneurial recognition.
- **Strengthened Research & Policy Collaboration:** Enhanced partnerships leading to collaborative projects and improved policies.
- **International Networking & Trade:** Increased opportunities for investment, technology transfer, and export linkages.
- **High-Visibility Media Coverage:** National and international promotion of ICC, North Sulawesi, and coconut-based innovations.

#### **4. Participation in the COCODIV Project**

- I. The Coconut Diversity and Innovation Networking in the Pacific and Southeast Asia (COCODIV) project is a multi-year, ACIAR-funded initiative led by CIRAD to characterize coconut genetic diversity, optimize germplasm conservation, and develop a collaborative regional network. The project is designed to (i) enable faster and more efficient breeding programs through high-throughput genotyping and phenotyping, (ii) improve germplasm exchange systems, and (iii) strengthen capacity building through training and participatory governance.
- II. Participation in COCODIV will allow ICC to extend the benefits of the project beyond direct partner countries by mobilizing COGENT's global network and supporting international knowledge exchange.

#### **Role and Expected Contribution of ICC**

ICC has formally accepted CIRAD's invitation to participate in COCODIV and has committed to:

- **Coordination Role:** Manage invitations, travel logistics, and participation of two COGENT network representatives from outside the project countries for key trainings, workshops, and meetings.

- Participation in Governance: Represent COGENT as a member of the project board and taskforces (training & capacity building, data management, germplasm sharing).
- Capacity Building: Facilitate engagement of non-participating ICC member countries within the project scope to ensure broader dissemination of protocols and project outputs.
- In-Kind Contribution: Provide 50% in-kind support for staff time dedicated to the project, with the remaining 50% covered by project funding.

### **Benefits for ICC and Member Countries**

Participation in the project will generate significant direct and indirect benefits:

- Funded Participation: Two representatives from COGENT network countries outside of the direct project partners will be supported to attend trainings, workshops, and key project meetings, ensuring global outreach.
- Access to Cutting-Edge Tools and Data: Member countries will benefit from high-quality genotyping data, a regional core collection, and standardized protocols for sampling, characterization, and data management.
- Capacity Building: Member countries will gain access to hands-on training and workshops that strengthen technical capabilities in breeding, genebank management, and data stewardship.
- Higher Studies Sponsorship Opportunities: The project will offer scholarships and research opportunities for MSc and PhD students from ICC member countries, contributing to long-term human capital development.
- Strengthened Research Collaboration: ICC's involvement will enhance linkages with CIRAD, SPC, PCA, UPLB, Crop Trust, and other international institutions, ensuring that innovations are shared widely across the network.

## **5. Data Management Program for ICGs and NCGs**

- I. Data management has been identified as a critical need for the long-term sustainability of coconut genetic resources. Many International Coconut Genebanks (ICGs) and National Coconut Genebanks (NCGs) still face challenges with data consistency, accessibility, and integration, which limit their ability to share germplasm and collaborate effectively.
- II. The proposed Data Management Program is designed as a multi-year initiative to create a robust and interoperable data system for all ICGs and NCGs. This will ensure accurate, standardized, and accessible information on coconut accessions, which is essential for breeding programs, conservation strategies, and germplasm exchange.



III. In 2026, ICC will collaborate with Crop Trust to organize a series of virtual meetings and webinars tailored for both international and national genebank managers and technical staff. These sessions will focus on:

- Standardization of passport, characterization, and evaluation data using globally accepted descriptors.
- Training on modern data management tools and software to improve record-keeping and decision-making.
- Strengthening of linkages between ICC-COGENT, national genebanks, and international partners to ensure data interoperability and sharing.

This program complements the COCODIV project, which is developing a collaborative regional network and generating new molecular and phenotypic characterization data. By aligning with COCODIV's outputs, ICC will ensure that the data produced is harmonized, centrally stored, and accessible to all member countries for research, breeding, and policy planning.

#### **Expected Outputs**

- Improved Data Quality: Harmonized and standardized datasets for coconut germplasm across ICGs and NCGs.
- Capacity Development: Strengthened skills among genebank managers and researchers in data management, analysis, and reporting.
- Collaborative Network: An engaged and better-connected community of genebank custodians sharing data through an ICC-COGENT platform.

#### **6. Side Event on Harnessing the Potential of Coconut for Sustainable Development at the 13<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD-13)**

- I. Building on the success of ICC's side event "*Harnessing the Potential of Coconut for Food and Energy Security: Sustainable Solutions for a Resilient Future*" organized during the 81<sup>st</sup> Session of the UNESCAP Commission in 2025, ICC proposes to convene a follow-up side event at the 13<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD-13) to be held in Bangkok from 24 to 27 February 2026.
- II. This event will position the coconut sector as a critical enabler of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, emphasizing coconut's multifaceted contributions to food security, renewable energy, climate resilience, rural development, and carbon sequestration. It will also provide a unique opportunity to engage with development partners, financial institutions, and policy leaders beyond ICC's membership base, showcasing the coconut industry's alignment with SDGs 1, 2, 3, 7 and 13.

#### **Specific objectives**

1. Present coconut-based innovations and policies that contribute to sustainable and inclusive development in the Asia-Pacific region.

2. Promote investment opportunities in **coconut-derived renewable energy** such as **Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)** and **biochar** technologies.
3. Strengthen policy dialogue on integrating coconut into national and regional frameworks for **food, energy, and climate security**.
4. Expand ICC's partnerships with international development agencies, private sector actors, and research institutions.

#### **Expected Outputs**

- A high-level policy forum within APFSD that generates regional visibility for coconut as a sustainable development commodity.
- A **Joint Policy Brief** summarizing actionable recommendations for integrating coconut into SDG implementation frameworks.
- Broadened collaboration between ICC, UNESCAP, and key partners in energy, environment, and food systems for resource mobilization and technical cooperation.
- Increased recognition of coconut plantations as nature-based climate solutions supporting carbon markets and smallholder resilience.

#### **7. Other ICC Programs**

- Capacity building programs, collaborative research support for developing high yield climate resilient hybrid varieties in member countries, webinars and workshops will be organized as per the needs of member countries.

#### **Recommendation**

For the information and approval of the Session of Delegates to proceed with the above-mentioned major international programs for 2025–2026, including the implementation of the Biosecurity Protocols Update, Coconut Tissue Culture Technology Optimization Program, Data Management Program for ICGs/NCGs, World Coconut Day 2026 celebrations in North Sulawesi, ICC's participation in the COCODIV project and Side Event on Harnessing the Potential of Coconut for Sustainable Development at the 13<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

## AGENDA ITEM 10

### INSPECTOR MANUAL FOR SORTING NON-STANDARD COCONUT

List of Documents  
ICC SESSION-LXI-2025/010

## Agenda Item 10: Inspector Manual for Sorting Non-Standard Coconut

### Purpose

To seek endorsement of the Inspector Manual for Non-Standard Coconut, which serves as a comprehensive guide for establishing a standardized, consistent, and reliable approach to manual sorting processes of coconuts, ensuring transparency and uniform practices across ICC member countries.

### Facts & Considerations

The trade and utilization of non-standard (NS) coconuts is gaining importance, particularly for industrial uses such as copra processing, animal feed, activated carbon, biofuel, and notably as an eligible feedstock in the production of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). To support this, The National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia (BRIN) has developed the Inspector Manual for Non-Standard Coconut in consultation with ICC secretariat, experts and stakeholders.

The Manual provides:

- **Standardized Sorting Procedures:** Clear, detailed instructions on manual sorting through visual inspection and separation of NS coconuts based on predefined criteria.
- **Eligibility for SAF:** Alignment of NS coconut classification with requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) Sustainability Criteria for SAF (SCS).
- **Consistency and Traceability:** A reliable framework to ensure effective and uniform sorting, traceability of raw materials, and reduction of disputes in trade.
- **Safety and Sustainability:** Guidelines to ensure personnel safety, sustainable utilization of resources, and compliance with regulatory frameworks.
- **Capacity Building:** A training and reference tool to support inspectors and organizations in implementing best practices for NS coconut sorting and certification.

By endorsing this Manual, ICC member countries will harmonize NS coconut inspection practices, enhance confidence in coconut-based supply chains, and contribute to global efforts toward sustainable energy transition through SAF production.

The drafted manual has undergone a comprehensive review process conducted by experts representing member countries of the ICC. All comments and feedback have been addressed appropriately.

The final draft of the manual, after the review process, is attached separately.

### Recommendation

It is recommended that the Session of Delegates and members endorse the Inspector Manual for Non-Standard Coconut as an official ICC reference document and authorize its dissemination and adoption by member countries for national inspection, certification, and training of SAF-related and other applications.

## AGENDA ITEM 11

### ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW POST – AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS & GLOBAL MARKET STRATEGY DIRECTOR

List of Documents  
ICC SESSION-LXI-2025/011

## Agenda Item 11: Establishment of a New Post – Agricultural Economics & Global Market Strategy Director

### Purpose

To seek the approval of the Session of Delegates for the establishment of a new Director-level position within the ICC Secretariat, titled “**Agricultural Economics & Global Market Strategy Director.**” This position will be created by renaming the existing but long-vacant post of **Scientific and Technical Director** to align the Secretariat’s structure with the current strategic and analytical needs of the global coconut sector.

### Facts & Considerations

- The global coconut industry is undergoing structural changes driven by shifting trade patterns, evolving consumer preferences, and increased exposure to global economic and climatic volatility. ICC’s existing structure includes a **Market and Statistics Director**, responsible primarily for the collection, compilation, and dissemination of raw data and statistical indicators.
- However, there is a critical institutional gap between statistical reporting and actionable economic strategy. To address this, the Secretariat proposes establishing a new **Agricultural Economics & Global Market Strategy Director**, who will interpret and transform statistical data into high-level economic analyses, forecasts, and policy recommendations that can guide ICC’s programs, member-country decisions, and private-sector investments.
- The proposed position will not create an additional budget line. It will be implemented through renaming and repurposing the already approved but long-vacant position of **Scientific and Technical Director**. The core functions and responsibilities of the Scientific and Technical Director have been integrated and are now being addressed by the work of the four groups of the International Thematic Action Group (ITAG) of COGENT. As a result, maintaining the original post is no longer a prudent allocation of organizational resources.
- The Agricultural Economics & Global Market Strategy Director will serve as ICC’s principal authority on global coconut economics and market intelligence. Major functions include:
  - **Economic Analysis & Forecasting:** Comprehensive modelling of global supply-demand dynamics, production costs, and pricing mechanisms; long-term forecasting of coconut production and market trends using econometric and agricultural variables.
  - **Value Chain & Policy Assessment:** Evaluation of trade agreements, tariffs, subsidies, and non-tariff barriers; identification of margin and value-addition opportunities along the value chain.
  - **Strategic Market Development:** Formulation of strategies for member countries to expand market access, diversify product portfolios, and enhance competitiveness in global markets.

- **Integration with Agricultural Expertise:** Economic evaluation of sustainable and climate-resilient farming systems, ensuring that analytical work remains grounded in production realities.
  - **Stakeholder Engagement:** Representation of ICC as an expert body in high-level dialogues with governments, development agencies, and industry partners.
- The new position will strengthen the Secretariat’s analytical and strategic capacity without duplicating existing functions:
  - The Market and Statistics Director will continue to manage data collection, compilation, and statistical reporting.
  - The Information and Publication Director will maintain responsibility for public communications, outreach, and publication management.
  - The Agricultural Economics & Global Market Strategy Director will bridge these functions—transforming statistical outputs into economic intelligence and actionable strategies, thus ensuring evidence-based decision-making across ICC programs.
- The establishment of this position will significantly enhance the analytical and policy-making capabilities of the ICC Secretariat. It will strengthen ICC’s institutional capacity to provide in-depth economic forecasts, value-chain analyses, and investment guidance for member countries, enabling them to make informed policy and business decisions. By linking raw data with economic theory and agricultural realities, the new Directorate will position ICC as a thought leader in global coconut economics and sustainable trade development. Moreover, it will facilitate the design of targeted programs that support climate-resilient production, circular-economy models, and value addition within member states.
- The position will also enhance ICC’s ability to mobilize resources by generating data-driven proposals for development partners and investors, thus fostering closer collaboration with financial institutions and international organizations. Overall, this post will transform ICC’s analytical function from data reporting to proactive strategic guidance, ensuring the organization remains responsive, relevant, and forward-looking in addressing global market challenges.
- The detailed Job Description for the proposed position will be attached as **Annex II** for the Session’s consideration.

## Recommendation

It is recommended that the Session of Delegates approve the establishment of the new post titled “Agricultural Economics & Global Market Strategy Director” within the ICC Secretariat by renaming the currently vacant position of “Scientific and Technical Director”, maintaining the same grade and salary scale as the existing Director-level positions. Furthermore, the Session of Delegates is requested to authorize the ICC Secretariat to proceed with the recruitment of a suitably qualified professional to fill this newly established position, in accordance with ICC Staff Rules and recruitment procedures, once adequate funding becomes available for the salary and allowances.

**Annex II**

**DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS & GLOBAL MARKET STRATEGY**

1. Age : Within the age of 35-45 years
2. Citizenship : Citizen of ICC member countries
3. Educational qualification : Minimum Master's degree in Agricultural Economics, Agribusiness, Development Economics.
4. Desirable : Doctoral Degree (Ph.D.) in Agricultural Economics, International Trade, or Market Strategy.
5. Experience : Minimum 5 years of progressive experience in agricultural economic analysis, trade policy, or market strategy development preferably with exposure to tropical commodities in the coconut sector.
6. Scale of pay : US\$1,800
7. Skills : Strong skills in economic analysis, forecasting, and value chain studies; be proficient in data analysis using tools such as Excel, R, or STATA; possess excellent written and spoken English; be able to translate data into clear policy and business insights; and demonstrate good communication and presentation skills with stakeholders.
8. Personality : Amicable personality with pleasing manner



### **Job Description**

Serves as ICC's principal authority on economic insight and market development. This position bridges statistical analysis and strategic decision-making transforming data into actionable guidance for member countries and stakeholders. This includes identify project ideas, prepare project proposals, identification of its components and their costing, and implement the project. Scientific Technical Officer would assist with coordination of COGENT's activities;

**1. Economic Analysis and Forecasting**

1. Conduct comprehensive economic analysis of the global coconut sector, including production costs, farm economics, supply–demand dynamics, and price mechanisms.
2. Develop and maintain econometric and forecasting models for production, trade, and consumption trends integrating yield, climate, and input variables.
3. Generate economic insights on short-, medium-, and long-term market developments to inform ICC policy advice.
4. Prepare annual and special reports on global and regional coconut market outlook and performance.

**2. Value Chain and Policy Assessment**

1. Analyze the economics of the coconut value chain to identify bottlenecks, cost drivers, and opportunities for value addition.
2. Assess trade policies, tariffs, and subsidies affecting member countries' competitiveness.
3. Conduct policy and impact assessments related to agricultural development, climate resilience, and sustainability.
4. Provide economic advice on the implications of trade agreements and agricultural policies for member countries.

**3. Global Market Strategy and Development**

1. Formulate data-driven strategies for market diversification, product innovation, and competitive positioning.
2. Identify and analyze emerging markets and consumer trends, including sustainable, organic, and functional products.
3. Work closely with the Director of Market & Statistics to convert statistical data into economic insights and actionable recommendations.
4. Develop policy briefs and investment proposals to attract partnerships and funding for member countries.

4. Agricultural and Sustainability Economics
  1. Integrate agricultural and farm-level realities into economic models for realistic projections.
  2. Evaluate the economic feasibility of sustainable and climate-smart production systems.
  3. Develop valuation frameworks for sustainability benefits and potential access to climate finance.
5. Representation and Collaboration
  1. Represent ICC at international and regional forums on agricultural economics, trade, and market strategy.
  2. Engage governments, development partners, and private-sector stakeholders to strengthen economic collaboration.
  3. Support capacity-building programs to enhance economic and market literacy among member countries.
6. Coordination and Reporting
  1. Reports directly to the Director General.
  2. Coordinates closely with the Director of Market & Statistics and Director of Information & Publication to ensure integration and avoid overlap.
  3. Provides guidance to research officers, economists, and consultants engaged in market and economic studies.
  4. Performs other duties as assigned by the Director General.

## AGENDA ITEM 12

### NEW STRUCTURE OF THE ICC TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG)

List of Documents  
ICC SESSION-LXI-2025/012

## **Agenda Item 12: New Structure of the ICC Technical Working Group (TWG)**

### **Purpose**

To inform the Session of Delegates on the updated structure of the ICC Technical Working Group (TWG) and to seek approval for the inclusion of a new member, replacing the retired representative from Tonga.

### **Facts & Considerations**

- The Technical Working Group (TWG) serves as ICC's principal technical and policy advisory body, established under the ICC Rules of Procedure No. 10 (10.1–10.4), to assist the Secretariat on strategic and technical matters.
- The current structure of the TWG was endorsed during the 60<sup>th</sup> ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in 2024. The TWG plays a crucial role in seeking external donor funds and providing scientific and policy advice to enhance the sustainability, competitiveness, and socio-economic welfare of stakeholders in the global coconut sector.
- Dr. Viliami T. Manu, former Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forests of Tonga, and a longstanding member of the TWG, has formally retired from active service.
- To ensure continued representation and expertise in emerging areas of global relevance, the ICC Secretariat proposes the inclusion of **Mr. Masato Fujii**, former Director of the Green SAF Division at the Green Power Development Corporation of Japan (GPDJ), who now leads a new consultancy focused on strategic business development in areas including world heritage, financial planning and sustainable coconut projects. While Mr. Fujii possesses strong expertise in sustainable energy and green project management, his primary value to the ICC lies in his deep connection and commercial insight into the Japanese energy markets. He has significantly contributed to the process of including non-standard coconuts as a feedstock for SAF in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Positive List, aligning with ICC's efforts to promote carbon neutrality initiatives.
- The inclusion of Mr. Fujii will strategically connect ICC members with major potential markets in Japan and other countries, facilitating sustainable market development and commercialization opportunities for coconut products across different sectors. This addition will also broaden the technical scope of the TWG, strengthening its capacity to advise on bioenergy applications and enhance its regional and sectoral representation in line with the expanding mandate of the ICC Strategic Plan.
- A summary of the updated TWG structure is presented in **Annex III** for the Session's consideration.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Session of Delegates and members present approve and confirm the updated structure of the ICC Technical Working Group, appointing **Mr. Masato Fujii** as a member to replace Dr. Viliami T. Manu of Tonga.

**Annex III**

**PROPOSED STRUCTURE FOR ICC – TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP**

1. Dr. Prabath Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Coconut Development Board (CDB), India – **Chair**
2. Mr. Roel Rosales, Deputy Administrator for Operations, Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), Philippines – **Co-Chair**
3. Dr. Fabian Dayrit, Chair of the ICC – Scientific Advisory Committee on Health (SACH) (Ex – Officio) – **Member**
4. Mr. Natan Kambuno, Director of Interregional and International Organization Negotiation Directorate General of International Trade Negotiation, Ministry of Trade, Indonesia – **Member**
5. Mr. Alan Aku, Managing Director, Kokonas Industri Koporesen (KIK), Papua New Guinea – **Member**
6. Dr. Nayani S. Aratchchige, Director, Coconut Research Institute (CRI), Sri Lanka – **Member**
7. Dr. Hanumanthe B. Gowda, Chief Coconut Development Officer, Coconut Development Board (CDB), India – **Member**
8. Mr. Christopher John Biai, Director, Crops Industry Development, Department of Agriculture (DOA), Malaysia – **Member**
9. Ms. Wilaiwan Twishiri, Agriculture Research Officer, Horticulture Research Institute (HRI), Thailand – **Member**
10. Dr. Wayne A. Myrie, Plant Pathologist, Coconut Industry Board (CIB), Jamaica – **Member**
11. Mr. Masato Fujii, Independent Consultant, Japan – **Member**

## AGENDA ITEM 13

### NEW STRUCTURE OF THE INTERNATIONAL THEMATIC ACTION GROUP 04 (IN-VITRO CULTURE AND CRYOPRESERVATION)

List of Documents  
ICC SESSION-LXI-2025/013

### Agenda Item 13: New Structure of the International Thematic Action Group 04 (In-vitro Culture and Cryopreservation)

#### Purpose

To update the session of Delegates on the new Structure of ICC COGENT ITAG 04, including the change of leader.

#### Facts & Considerations

- The International Thematic Action Groups (ITAGs) were established to promote and coordinate international collaborative research in key thematic areas related to coconut genetic resources. ITAGs provide scientific and technical guidance to the ICC – COGENT Secretariat and Steering Committee, contributing directly to the implementation of the *Global Strategy for the Conservation and Use of Coconut Genetic Resources*.
- ITAG-04 specifically focuses on **in-vitro culture and cryopreservation** of coconut germplasm, a crucial area supporting safe, long-term conservation, rapid multiplication, and international exchange of planting materials.
- As stated in the approved COGENT SOP, ITAG members are responsible for providing thematic expertise, coordinating collaborative research, developing technical guidelines, mobilizing resources, and supporting capacity-building programs among member countries. Each ITAG functions as a platform for technical consultation and knowledge sharing among scientists and institutions across regions.
- The former Team Leader of ITAG-04, Dr. Vijitha Vidhanaarachchi, Head of the Tissue Culture division of CRI Sri Lanka, has now retired from active service. In line with Section “Selection Criteria for ITAG Members” of the COGENT SOP, ITAG leaders must be *active* staff of government or international research institutions. Consequently, re-structuring is required to designate a new Team Leader and update the membership to ensure regional balance and continuity of work.
- Consequently, Dr. M. K. Rajesh, Head of Regional Station of Vittal, ICAR – CPRCI, India, has been nominated as the new leader of ITAG 04 with the agreement of the members of ITAG 04, while former team leader Dr. Vijitha Vidhanaarachchi continues to serve as a member of the ITAG 04.
- The proposed new structure of ITAG-04 will include a Team Leader, Co-Team Leader, and Members representing the five coconut-growing regions to ensure balanced geographic and technical representation. The detailed list of the proposed structure is presented in **Annex III** for the Session’s consideration.

#### Recommendation

It is recommended for the Session of Delegates and members present to approve and confirm the New ICC – COGENT ITAG 04 Structure and the Team Leader.

**Annex IV**

It is recommended for the Session of Delegates and members present to approve and confirm the New ICC – COGENT ITAG 04 Structure and the Team Leader.

**Proposed Structure for ICC – COGENT ITAG 04**

1. Dr. M. K. Rajesh - Team Leader
2. Dr. Bart Panis - Co-Team Leader
3. Dr. Steve Adkins
4. Dr. Carlos Oropeza
5. Dr. Regi Jacob Thomas
6. Dr. Vijitha R. M. Vidhanaarachchi
7. Dr. Sundar Kalaipandian
8. Dr. Viviane Talamini
9. Dr. Sisunandar
10. Ms. Jeannette Kumaunang
11. Ms. Maria Buena A. Ubaldo
12. Mr. Joel Gerone B. Larupay
13. Dr. Cristeta A. Cueto
14. Representative from Thailand (to be nominated)
15. Representative from CRI Sri Lanka (to be nominated)



## AGENDA ITEM 14

### COCONUT GERMPLASM EXCHANGE PROGRAM

List of Documents  
ICC SESSION-LXI-2025/014

## **Agenda Item 14: Coconut Germplasm Exchange Program**

### **Purpose**

To seek endorsement from the Session of Delegates for the establishment of a structured Coconut Germplasm Exchange Program among ICC member countries, aimed at addressing the critical shortage of quality, climate-resilient planting materials and enhancing global genetic diversity.

### **Facts & Considerations**

The lack of sufficient, high-quality, pest- and disease-resistant planting materials remains one of the most significant constraints for the sustainable development of the coconut sector in member countries. Many coconut farms are aging, and replanting initiatives are hampered by the limited availability of elite germplasm.

Several member countries have expressed their willingness to share their coconut germplasm with others, recognizing that safe and scientifically guided exchange is essential for:

- Strengthening national replanting and rehabilitation programs.
- Introducing climate-resilient and high-yielding varieties.
- Accelerating breeding and varietal improvement efforts.
- Preserving genetic diversity and safeguarding against losses caused by pests, diseases, and climate change.

### **Program Outline**

The proposed Coconut Germplasm Exchange Program will:

- **Facilitate Safe Exchange:** Enable regulated exchange of coconut germplasm (seednuts, embryos, pollen, etc.) among member countries under harmonized technical and legal frameworks.
- **Adhere to Regulations:** Fully comply with prevailing international treaties (e.g., ITPGRFA, IPPC) and national plant quarantine regulations of each participating country.
- **Update Biosecurity Protocols:** Integrate outcomes from ICC's Biosecurity Protocol Update Program to ensure phytosanitary safety and minimize the risk of transboundary pest or disease spread.
- **Capacity Building:** Provide training on germplasm handling, quarantine procedures, and safe exchange mechanisms for national research and quarantine teams.
- **Documentation and Traceability:** Establish a transparent tracking and documentation system for exchanged materials, ensuring proper record-keeping and benefit-sharing compliance.
- **Participation in the Coconut Germplasm Exchange Program** will be entirely voluntary for member countries. No country is obligated to contribute or receive germplasm; exchanges will proceed only upon mutual agreement between the countries involved, ensuring respect for national priorities, regulatory frameworks, and institutional capacities.

- All exchanges under the Program will follow internationally recognized Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) principles, ensuring that providers of germplasm receive fair and equitable benefits. This includes transparent documentation, recognition of country of origin, and compliance with relevant ABS provisions under treaties such as the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and national ABS legislation.

### **Expected Benefits**

- Availability of diverse, improved, and resilient planting materials for replanting programs.
- Faster dissemination of improved varieties and hybrids across member countries.
- Strengthened regional cooperation and trust among genebanks, breeders, and regulators.
- Contribution to global food security and climate resilience by preserving coconut genetic diversity.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended for the Session of Delegates to:

1. Endorse the establishment of the Coconut Germplasm Exchange Program as a core ICC initiative.
2. Authorize the ICC Secretariat to work with member countries, research institutions, and regulatory agencies to operationalize the program in alignment with international and national requirements.
3. Approve the integration of the updated Biosecurity Protocol as the guiding framework for the program's implementation.

## AGENDA ITEM 15

### NEW STRUCTURE OF THE ICC SESSION AND MINISTERIAL MEETING

List of Documents  
ICC SESSION-LXI-2025/015

## **Agenda Item 15: New Structure of the ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting**

### **Purpose**

To seek the endorsement of the Session of Delegates for the proposal to conduct the ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting as two distinct but back-to-back events, starting from the 62<sup>nd</sup> ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting in 2026, to enhance ministerial-level participation and strengthen the decision-making process.

### **Facts & Considerations**

Under the current practice, the ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting are held as a single combined meeting over three days. Although this arrangement has been functional, the Secretariat has observed that the participation of ministers has been limited due to their demanding schedules, resulting in reduced ministerial-level engagement in critical policy decisions.

It is therefore proposed to separate the two meetings as follows:

- **Two-day ICC Session:** To deliberate on technical, strategic, and policy-related matters, review progress of ICC programs, consider recommendations from Technical Working Groups and Scientific Advisory Committees, and formulate recommendations for the ministerial level.
- **One-day Ministerial Meeting:** To endorse the recommendations and decisions arising from the Session, adopt ministerial declarations, and provide policy direction for the future of the global coconut sector.

The Ministerial Meeting would be held back-to-back with the Session, followed by a field visit on the final day, maintaining the current three-day structure.

### **Rationale and Benefits:**

- **Enhanced Ministerial Participation:** By allocating a dedicated single day for ministerial-level deliberation, participation is expected to increase, aligning with ministers' busy schedules.
- **Clearer Division of Roles:** The Session would focus on technical and policy discussion, while the Ministerial Meeting would focus on decision-making and endorsement, in line with ICC's governance framework.
- **Improved Efficiency:** Recommendations formulated during the Session can be finalized and endorsed immediately during the Ministerial Meeting, ensuring timely and actionable outcomes.
- **Strengthened Governance:** This approach elevates the importance of the Ministerial Meeting as the supreme decision-making forum of ICC, consistent with the ICC Rules of Procedure.

### **Proposed Inclusion to the ICC Rules and Procedures:**

- *"Rule X: The Ministerial Meeting shall be the supreme organ of the community and is composed of Ministers or their designated plenipotentiaries from member countries."*
- *"Rule Y: The Session shall be the technical and deliberative body that prepares recommendations for the Ministerial Meeting"*

Separating the meetings as proposed reinforces these provisions, ensuring a clear distinction between deliberation and decision-making.

**Recommendation**

Session of the Delegates are requested to review and endorse the proposed new structure of the ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting, with effect from the 62<sup>nd</sup> ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting, and authorize the Secretariat to make the necessary arrangements to implement this new structure.

## AGENDA ITEM 16.1

### APPOINTMENT OF NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL (CALLING NOMINATIONS)

List of Documents  
ICC SESSION-LXI-2025/016.1

## **Agenda Item 16.1: Appointment of New Director General (Calling Nominations)**

### **Purpose**

To inform the Session of Delegates of the commencement of the process of electing a new Director General for ICC Secretariat.

### **Facts & Considerations**

1. As stipulated in the Articles and the Rules of Procedures of ICC and as amended during the 61<sup>st</sup> Session and Ministerial Meeting held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, each Director General will serve a maximum of two terms, 4 years each.
2. The current Director General's term will expire on 20 January 2027 after serving two terms (2020-2023, and 2023-2027). Therefore, the process of electing the replacement commences 12 months prior to the end of the current term.
3. A formal notice calling for nominations, along with the selection criteria, will be formally issued to all member countries on Januari 2026, to assist them in nominating suitable candidates for the post of Director General.
4. The selection criteria is attached to inform interested countries in advance (**Annex V**).

### **Recommendation**

For the information of the Session of the Delegates. The Secretariat encourages the NLOs to assist with this process.



**Annex V**

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE POST OF  
DIRECTOR GENERAL, ICC**

Applications are hereby invited for the post of Director General – International Coconut Community (ICC), Jakarta, Indonesia.

1. Age : Must be within the age limit of 45-59 years of age. The Mandatory retirement age is at 62 years.
2. Citizenship : Must be a citizen of a full member country of ICC
3. Educational qualification : Essential:  
Degree in Agriculture or allied subjects/Life science / Marketing / Business Management with fluent knowledge of spoken and written English. (Knowledge of other languages will be an added advantage).
4. Desirable : Postgraduate/ Doctoral Degree
5. Experience : A person of national and international repute with 15 years experience out of which 10 years in senior managerial position in Government / Public Sector, preferably in coconut or other related industry. He should have experience in Personnel and Financial management and able to formulate harmonize and coordinate project. He should have experience in dealing with senior level officers in government organizations, agencies, scientific organizations and also dealing with national and international organization. Must have adequate knowledge of production, export/ import of coconut products/by-products; competing oilseeds/oils and fats; tariff and non-tariff issues on coconut trade; state of the coconut industry in at least a major coconut producing country; problems, issues and opportunities on the coconut industry's agriculture, processing, and marketing; price determinants of coconut oil and other coconut products; marketing channels for major coconut products; pests and diseases of coconuts; distinction between Talls and hybrid varieties; etc.
6. Scale of pay : US\$3,600-150-4,800
7. Skills : Adept in the use of computer for writing communications, reports, emailing, surfing the internet, etc. Adaptable to multi-cultural work environment. Excellent interpersonal relations skills with proven managerial skills.
8. Personality : Amiable, approachable, easy to get along with.

9. Leadership : Must have led either an organizational unit or the entire organization for at least 5 years.
10. Tenure : Initially for a period of 3 years and extendable for another 3 years as ICC Session desires. The Director General can only hold the position for maximum of two consecutive terms of three years each.

### **JOB DESCRIPTION OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ICC**

#### **1. General**

Provides day-to-day management of the affairs of the ICC Secretariat. Using managerial and interpersonal skills, ensures that a multi-cultural office environment is conducive to serving the needs of ICC member countries, their representatives and ICC's various publics and clientele. Ensures that the Session-approved program of activities are pursued efficiently and effectively within the approved budget. Designs and implements projects/activities designed to project ICC as a development-oriented intergovernmental organization attuned to the needs of fast changing regional and global environment.

#### **2. Specific**

- a. Prepares annual program of work with specific activities, timetable, budget, and personnel assignment. Presents such program before the annual session of plenipotentiary delegates for approval;
- b. Manages the preparation of annual budget. Presents such budget to the annual session for approval;
- c. Exerts diplomatic and moral persuasive powers to collect member-countries annual contribution on time;
- d. Prudently manages the funds of the Secretariat;
- e. Exerts efforts to generate additional funds from regional/international organizations and international donor community to defray the cost of meetings and other development activities;
- f. Sources out materials from scientists, researchers, policy makers, development workers, executives, and entrepreneurs/businessmen for inclusion in relevant ICC publications;
- g. Edits: (a) such regular publications as: COCOMMUNITY (twice a month), CORD (twice a year), COCOINFO INTERNATIONAL (twice a year), and Coconut Statistical Year Book; (b) ad hoc publications that may be put out from time to time;
- h. Manages all the preparations for the:
  - Annual session of plenipotentiary delegates, including the finalization and distribution (to all NLOs) in advance of the meeting, of all the documents pertaining to the meeting agenda;
  - Printing and distribution of the Proceedings of the Annual Session;

- COCOTECH Meeting, including the drafting and finalization of the Agenda, the theme, sub-themes, topics and resource speakers, reproduction of papers for presentation, funding for speakers and NLOs, etc;
  - Printing and distribution of COCOTECH Proceedings; and,
  - Special meetings that may happen from time to time.
- i. Serves as the resource person during the annual session of plenipotentiary delegates. Oversees the smooth and orderly conduct of the session;
  - j. Serves as the overall coordinator for the smooth and orderly conduct of COCOTECH Meetings;
  - k. Conceptualizes and writes development project proposals;
  - l. Negotiates with financial institutions, international development agencies and international donor community for funding of development projects;
  - m. Represents ICC in the meetings of ESCAP, FAO's, IG000F, and other UN bodies/agencies;
  - n. Represents ICC in the Steering Committee of International Coconut Genetic Resources Network (COGENT) and in the Board of Administrators of the Bureau for the Development of Research for Tropical Oil Crops (BUROTROP);
  - o. Prepares annual report of the ICC Secretariat
  - p. Maintains a healthy network of linkages with international development agencies and institutions
  - q. Links up with organizations, individuals and institutions is engaged in the promotion and marketing of coconut products; and,
  - r. Performs other jobs which are consistent with the mandate of ICC.

## AGENDA ITEM 16.2

### RECRUITING A NEW SECRETARY FOR THE SECRETARIAT – TERM BEGINNING OCTOBER 2026

List of Documents  
ICC SESSION-LXI-2025/016.2

**Agenda Item 16.2: Recruiting a New Secretary for the Secretariat – Term Beginning October 2026**

**Purpose**

To inform the Session of Delegates of the requirement to recruit a new Secretary for the ICC Secretariat and seek approval to initiate the recruitment process.

**Facts & Considerations**

1. Ms. Maria Widyastuti, the current Secretary of ICC, who reached her retirement age (58 years) on 20 September 2024, was first appointed on 10 January 2003 and has served the Secretariat for over two decades.
2. As approved during the 59<sup>th</sup> ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting (Lampung, Indonesia, 2023), her tenure was extended from 21 September 2024 to 20 September 2026 in line with Rule 10.10 of the ICC Staff Rules and Regulations, which allows extensions of service up to two years beyond retirement age with the approval of the Chairman in consultation with member countries.
3. Rule No. 07.03 of the Staff Rules and Regulations of the International Coconut Community stipulates that:

*The procedures for the recruitment, selection and appointment of the Professional Staff and General Service Staff other than on secondment or attached to the Secretariat, shall be as follows:*

- (a) The vacant position shall be advertised in appropriate local media for at least one month.*
- (b) The Director General shall constitute a Selection Committee composed of the Deputy Director General and two members who will short-list the candidates.*
- (c) Upon the recommendation of the Selection Committee, the Director General shall issue the appointment letters.*

**Recommendation**

It is recommended for the Session of the Delegates to note the new recruitment for the post of Secretary.

**Annex VI**

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE POST OF  
SECRETARY, ICC**

1. Age : Must be within the age of 25-40.
2. Citizenship : Must be a citizen of a full member country of ICC
3. Educational qualification : Graduate with diploma in secretarial course, well versed in stenography and excellent Knowledge in computer, having good communication skill, knowledge in handling latest electronic communication equipment like fax, computer, scanner, printing and virtual meeting platforms etc.
4. Experience : Minimum 3 years experience in secretarial assistance
6. Scale of pay : US\$700-35
7. Skills : Tactful and professional in handling visitors, calls, and correspondence; proficient in organizing schedules, meetings, and travel arrangements; experienced in managing digital communication, documentation, and confidential records; adaptable to new technologies and modern office systems; and efficient in multitasking, organization, and time management to support executive operations effectively.
8. Personality : Amiable & approachable; diplomatic in addressing inquiries and interacting with officials, member country representatives, and external organizations

**JOB DESCRIPTION  
SECRETARY**

To attend all the work to facilitate the efficient functioning of Director General. He / She should specifically:

1. Perform general clerical/typing work for the Director General and Deputy Director General
2. Attend to all in-coming and out-going communications either by fax, e-mail, surface/airmail and ensures an orderly filing system of all communications and project documents.
3. Assist in the typing/preparation of ICC regular and ad-hoc or special publications, project reports, seminar/workshop, proceedings and other documents.
4. Assist in the annual inventory of office equipment and publications.
5. Responsible for managing correspondence, including generating and maintaining letter numbering to ensure accuracy and consistency. Assist in drafting and proofreading official letters, memos, and reports for the Director General, ensuring they are accurate, properly formatted, and meet professional standards.
6. Maintain an up-to-date contact list of stakeholders, partners, and key personnel
7. Receive office calls, guests and sets official appointments for the Director General and Deputy Director General.
8. Attend to any other work that may be assigned by the Director General, Deputy Director General and Finance and Administrative director from time to time.

## AGENDA ITEM 16.3

### AMENDMENT TO ICC STAFF RULES AND REGULATIONS

List of Documents  
ICC SESSION-LXI-2025/016.3



### **Agenda Item 16.3: Amendment to ICC Staff Rules and Regulations**

#### **Purpose**

To seek the approval and endorsement of the Session of Delegates relating to the following amendments in the ICC Staff Rules and Regulations.

#### **Facts & Considerations**

It is found necessary to review and update specific rules to better reflect the current organizational operational efficiency. Therefore, the following amendments have been considered:

1. Amendment to Rule 7.03: Procedures of Recruitment

It is found necessary to clarify the decision-making authority in the recruitment process to improve efficiency and accountability in staff appointments. The existing Rule 7.03 outlines the role of the Selection Committee but does not explicitly empower the Director General (DG) to make the final decision after receiving recommendations from the Committee. The amendment should read as follows:

<b>Existing Rule</b>	<b>Proposed Amendment</b>
<p><b>Rule 7.03:</b></p> <p>The procedures for the recruitment, selection and appointment of the Professional Staff and General Service Staff other than on secondment or attached to the Secretariat, shall be as follows:</p> <p>(a) The vacant position shall be advertised in appropriate local media for at least one month;</p> <p>(b) The Director General shall constitute a Selection Committee composed of the Deputy Director General and two members who will short-list the candidates;</p> <p>(c) Upon the recommendation of the Selection Committee, the Director General shall issue the appointment letters;</p> <p>(d) Employment of Professional Staff is subject to the Provision of Rule 7.09.</p>	<p><b>Rule 7.03:</b></p> <p>The procedures for the recruitment, selection and appointment of the Professional Staff and General Service Staff other than on secondment or attached to the Secretariat, shall be as follows:</p> <p>(a) The vacant position shall be advertised in appropriate local media for at least one month;</p> <p>(b) The Director General shall constitute a Selection Committee consist of the Director General, Deputy Director General, Chairs of TWG and SACH who will short-list the candidates;</p> <p>(c) After receiving the Selection Committee's recommendation, Director General shall make the final decision on the appointment and issue the appointment letters accordingly;</p> <p>(d) Employment of Professional Staff is subject to the Provision of Rule 7.09.</p>

2. The proposed amendment is designed to align the staff benefits with international best practices as applied within the United Nations system. In particular, the introduction of unpaid sick leave is consistent with the provisions on Special Leave under the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations (ST/SGB/2018/1, Rule 5.3 and Rule 6.3), which allow staff members to be granted special leave without pay in cases of extended illness or other exceptional circumstances. The amendment should read as follows:

Existing Rule	Proposed Amendment
<i>No existing rule</i>	<p><b>Rule 8.05:</b></p> <p><b><u>Special Leave – Unpaid Sick Leave</u></b></p> <p><u>Unpaid sick leave may be granted to a staff member whose completed period of service minimum of consecutive three (3) years and illness requires treatment or recovery beyond the paid sick leave entitlement, for a maximum of two (2) months, upon submission of a valid medical certificate and approval of the Director General for Deputy Director General, Professional Staff and General Service Staff, and approval of ICC Chairman for Director General. In exceptional cases, an extension of maximum one month may be considered, subject to medical review and the needs of the service.</u></p>

### Recommendation

It is recommended for the Session of Delegates to approve the above amendments to the Rules no 8.01 and 8.05 of ICC Staff Rules and Regulations.

## AGENDA ITEM 16.4

### AMENDMENT TO ICC RULES OF PROCEDURES OF THE ICC

List of Documents  
ICC SESSION-LXI-2025/016.4

## **Agenda Item 16.4: Amendment to ICC Rules of Procedures of the ICC**

### **Purpose**

To seek the approval of the Session of Delegates relating to amendments in the ICC Rules of Procedures on the following.

### **Facts & Considerations**

1. The ICC have conducted several initiatives and active communications to the potential Associate Member Countries such as New Zealand, Japan, China, Australia, Netherlands, Maldives and Tuvalu, therefore such an adjustment to prepare the finance related aspect is necessary referring to the benefits stipulated for ICC to provide.
2. Rule 7.10, stipulating that an associate member shall pay US\$10,000 per year as contribution to the regular budget of the Community, was established in 2003. Considering the significant changes in monetary value and rising operational requirements since then, it is deemed necessary to adjust the contribution to ensure fairness and sustainability. The proposed amendment is as follows:

<b>Existing Rule</b>	<b>Proposed Amendment</b>
<b>Rule 7.10:</b> An associate member shall pay US \$10,000 per year as contribution to the regular budget of the Community.	<b>Rule 7.10:</b> An associate member shall pay <u>US\$15,000</u> per year as contribution to the regular budget of the Community.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Session of Delegates approve the proposed amendment to Rule 7.10 of the ICC Rules of Procedure.

## AGENDA ITEM 18

### ICC SESSION MEETING MATTERS

List of Documents  
ICC SESSION-LXI-2025/018

## AGENDA ITEM 18.1

### PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF REPORT OF 61<sup>ST</sup> ICC SESSION MEETING

List of Documents  
ICC SESSION-LXI-2025/018.1

**Agenda Item 18.1: Presentation and Adoption of Report of 61<sup>st</sup> ICC Session Meeting**

**Purpose**

To present the report from the 61<sup>st</sup> ICC Session Meeting for the Delegate's review and formal adoption.

**Facts & Considerations**

The Secretariat has compiled the Report of the 61<sup>st</sup> ICC Session Meeting. The report will be presented to the Delegates for their review and confirmation. After any final amendments are made, the report will be adopted by a formal resolution during the Meeting.

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Session of Delegates review and adopt the Report of the 61<sup>st</sup> ICC Session Meeting.

## AGENDA ITEM 18.2

### VENUE AND DATE OF THE 62<sup>ND</sup> ICC SESSION & MINISTERIAL MEETING

List of Documents  
ICC SESSION-LXI-2025/018.2



## **Agenda Item 18.2: Venue and Date of the 62<sup>nd</sup> ICC Session & Ministerial Meeting**

### **Purpose**

To inform the Session of Delegates of details of the 62<sup>nd</sup> ICC Session & Ministerial Meeting scheduled for CY 2026.

### **Facts & Considerations**

1. As per ICC's regulation No: 6.3, *"The Chair of the Community shall have a term of one year; the office shall be held in turn, beginning with each financial year of the Community, by the representatives of the member state in alphabetical order"*.
2. The Secretariat made formal requests to the Governments of Vietnam, Côte d'Ivoire, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, and India seeking their willingness to host the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session and Ministerial Meeting physically in 2026 according to the alphabetical order.
3. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire graciously accepted hosting the 63<sup>rd</sup> ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting in 2027.
4. Even though Secretariat didn't receive any formal response, both the Government of India and the Government of FSM informally expressed its willingness to host the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session in 2026.
5. Delegates from the Government of India and the FSM may provide some inputs.
6. Dates and venue for the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session and Ministerial Meeting in 2026 will be shared with the member countries once the secretariat receives the formal acceptance from the host country.

### **Recommendation**

For the information of the Session of Delegates and it is recommended that the Secretariat confirm and inform member countries regarding the host country and dates for the 62<sup>nd</sup> ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting in 2026 once the formal acceptance is received.



**International Coconut Community**  
*Established 1969 | a UNESCAP inter government organization*

A.27/028/2025  
12 February 2025

**HON. LORIN S. ROBERT**

Secretary  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
PS 123  
Palikir, Pohnpei  
Federated States of Micronesia

Hon. Secretary Lorin S. Robert,

**Subject: Hosting of the 62<sup>nd</sup> ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting in 2026.**

Greetings from the International Coconut Community (ICC) Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The International Coconut Community Secretariat presents its compliments to the Department of Foreign Affairs, Government of Federated States of Micronesia, and is pleased to write to enquire with your esteemed office whether dialogue could be arranged with the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia to consider being the host country for the 62<sup>nd</sup> ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting to be convened physically in 2026 with dates to be proposed, preferably during the second half of the October / November 2026.

The proposed venue is in accordance with ICC's regulation No: 6.3, *"The Chair of the Community shall have a term of one year; the office shall be held in turn, beginning with each financial year of the Community, by the representatives of the member state in alphabetical order"* and by considering country's favorable time to host the Session.

We would also like to highlight that the 61<sup>st</sup> ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting will take place in Bangkok, Thailand. According to ICC's rotational leadership framework, the country hosting the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session will assume the role of Vice Chairman of the ICC that year and will eventually ascend to the Chairmanship the following year. This presents a unique opportunity for Federated States of Micronesia to take on a pivotal leadership role within the ICC, guiding important discussions and initiatives that shape the future of the coconut industry globally.

We sincerely appreciate your time, and please don't hesitate to reach out for more information. We look forward to hearing from you soon.



## International Coconut Community

*Established 1969 | a UNESCAP inter government organization*

International Coconut Community Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew with the Department of Foreign Affairs, Government of Federated States of Micronesia, the assurances of its highest consideration.

Sincerely,

**JELFINA C. ALOUW**



**Director General**



## International Coconut Community

*Established 1969 | a UNESCAP inter government organization*

A.27/183/2025.  
14 July 2025.

**MR. PRIYA RANJAN IFoS**

Joint Secretary (Horticulture)  
Dep. of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare  
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare  
National Liaison Officer (NLO) for ICC  
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi  
India

Dear Secretary Priya Ranjan,

**Subject: Hosting of the 62<sup>nd</sup> ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting in 2026.**

Greetings from the Secretariat of the International Coconut Community (ICC) in Jakarta, Indonesia.

ICC presents its compliments to the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India and is pleased to write to enquire with your esteemed office whether dialogue could be arranged with the Government of the India to consider being the host country for the 62nd ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting to be convened physically in 2026 with dates to be proposed, preferably during the second half of the October / November 2026.

The proposed venue is in accordance with ICC's regulation No: 6.3, "*The Chair of the Community shall have a term of one year; the office shall be held in turn, beginning with each financial year of the Community, by the representatives of the member state in alphabetical order*" and by considering country's favorable time to host the Session.

We would also like to highlight that the 61st ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting will take place in Bangkok, Thailand. According to ICC's rotational leadership framework, the country hosting the 62nd Session will assume the role of Vice Chairman of the ICC that year and will eventually ascend to the Chairmanship the following year. This presents a unique opportunity for India to take on a pivotal leadership role within the ICC, guiding important discussions and initiatives that shape the future of the coconut industry globally.

In addition, we wish to respectfully inform you that the current tenure of the ICC Director General will end on 20th January 2027. Accordingly, the 62nd ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting will include the election of the new Director General, making this a particularly significant gathering in the governance of the Community.

We sincerely appreciate your time, and please don't hesitate to reach out for more information. We look forward to hearing from you soon.



## International Coconut Community

*Established 1969 | a UNESCAP inter government organization*

The International Coconut Community Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew with the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, the assurances of its highest consideration.

Sincerely,

**JELFINA C. ALOUW**  
**Director General**

**Copy furnished:**

**DR. PRABHAT KUMAR**, Horticulture Commissioner, Chief Executive Officer, Coconut Development Board, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, Alternate NLO (ANLO) for ICC, Kera Bhawan, Kochi 682011, Kerala, India.



MINISTERE D'ETAT,  
MINISTERE DE L'AGRICULTURE,  
DU DEVELOPPEMENT RURAL  
ET DES PRODUCTIONS VIVRIERES



REPUBLIQUE DE CÔTE D'IVOIRE  
Union-Discipline-Travail

**Le Ministre d'Etat**

N° 1258 /MEMINADERPV/CAB/DGPSA/DCPE

Abidjan, le 04 MARS 2025

/-)

**Madame la Directrice Générale de  
la Communauté Internationale de la  
noix de Coco (ICC)**

**JAKARTA**

**Objet** : Accueil de la 62<sup>e</sup> session et la réunion ministérielle  
de l'ICC en 2026

Réponse du Gouvernement de Côte d'Ivoire

**Madame la Directrice Générale,**

Le Ministère d'Etat, Ministère de l'Agriculture, du Développement Rural et des Productions Vivrières (MEMINADERPV) accuse bonne réception de votre courrier en date du 12 février 2024, par lequel vous sollicitez la Côte d'Ivoire en vue d'accueillir la 62<sup>e</sup> Session et la réunion ministérielle de la Communauté Internationale de la noix de Coco (ICC), assises prévues se tenir en 2026 en présentielle.

Le Gouvernement de Côte d'Ivoire, par ma voix, se réjouit de la marque de considération que porte la Communauté Internationale de la noix de Coco à son égard, tout en notant avec le plus grand intérêt la volonté de ladite Communauté de voir la Côte d'Ivoire jouer un rôle de leadership essentiel en son sein.

Il convient de rappeler qu'en Côte d'Ivoire, depuis 2022, la Filière Coco est en pleine restructuration, notamment en termes de gouvernance et d'initiative de développement. L'organisation d'un événement de cette envergure appelle de notre part un certain nombre de dispositions préalables à faire prendre.

Ainsi, il serait judicieux d'autoriser la Côte d'Ivoire à accueillir la 63<sup>e</sup> Session et la réunion ministérielle de l'ICC, à Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), événement qui devra se tenir naturellement en 2027, sous sa Présidence. Aussi, la Côte d'Ivoire serait prête à assurer la Vice-Présidence en 2026.

Veuillez agréer, **Madame la Directrice Générale**, l'assurance de ma considération distinguée.



*[Signature]*  
**Kouassi ADJOUMANI**

Translated version:

**MINISTRY OF STATE, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND FOOD PRODUCTION**

The Minister of State  
**REPUBLIC OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE**  
Union-Discipline-Work

Abidjan,

04 MARCH 2025  
/MEMINADERPV/CAB/DGPSA/DCPE

**Madam General Director of the International Coconut Community (ICC),**

JAKARTA

Subject: Hosting the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session and Ministerial Meeting of the ICC in 2026

Response from the Government of Côte d'Ivoire

Madam General Director,

The Ministry of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development, and Food Production (MEMINADERPV) acknowledges receipt of your letter dated February 12, 2024, in which you request Côte d'Ivoire to host the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session and Ministerial Meeting of the International Coconut Community (ICC), scheduled to be held in person in 2026.

The Government of Côte d'Ivoire, through me, welcomes the consideration shown by the International Coconut Community, and notes with great interest the Community's desire to see Côte d'Ivoire play an essential leadership role within it.

It should be recalled that in Côte d'Ivoire, since 2022, the coconut sector has been undergoing restructuring, particularly in terms of governance and development initiatives. Organizing an event of this scale requires us to make a number of preliminary arrangements.

Therefore, it would be wise to authorize Côte d'Ivoire to host the 63<sup>rd</sup> Session and Ministerial Meeting of the ICC, in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), an event which should naturally be held in 2027, under its Presidency. Côte d'Ivoire would also be ready to assume the Vice-Presidency in 2026.

Please accept, Madam General Director, the assurance of my highest consideration.

**Kobenan Kouassi ADJOUANI**

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## AGENDA ITEM 19

## CLOSING SESSION

List of Documents  
ICC SESSION-LXI-2025/019



## **Agenda Item 19: Closing Session**

### **Purpose**

To formally conclude the 61<sup>st</sup> ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting, including the official handover of ICC Chair to the next host country, expressions of gratitude, and closing remarks.

### **Facts & Considerations**

**Hand Over of ICC Chair:** The official handover of the ICC Chair position, symbolizing the continuation of ICC's leadership and mission. The outgoing chair will formally pass responsibilities to the incoming chair, emphasizing ICC's collective vision for sustainable development.

**Statements by Outgoing and Incoming Chairs:** Both chairs will deliver statements, highlighting the achievements of the session, commitments made, and future goals, along with extending gratitude to delegates for their active participation and collaboration.

**Vote of Thanks by Plenipotentiary Delegates:** Representatives from member countries will express appreciation for the efforts in organizing the meeting, reaffirming their support and enthusiasm for future collaborative efforts.

**Remarks by ICC Director General:** The Director General will address the delegates, summarizing the key takeaways from the session, and reiterating ICC's strategic direction and plans.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Session of Delegates be formally adjourned, with delegates reaffirming their commitment to the ICC's initiatives and the collective goals established during the 61<sup>st</sup> ICC Session and Ministerial Meeting.