

# Role of Coconut Development Board in development of coconut sector of the country

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Coconut is eulogized as the 'Kalpavriksha', the 'Tree of life', due to its multifarious utilization as food, fuel, medicine, timber and other utility purposes of different parts from root to leaves, from tender nut water to outer husk, etc. Coconut offers scope for sustaining the livelihood of growers, farm communities and industries in major coconut growing countries of the world. The crop is intricately woven into the socio-economic and cultural backdrop of the Indian subcontinent. As per 2019 statistics of the International Coconut Community, India is the largest coconut producing country in the world, with 31.45 % share of global production of 67,698 million nuts. The three leading coconut growing countries viz., India, Indonesia and Philippines contribute 73.33 % of area under coconut and 74.15 % of production. India ranks second in terms of productivity (9,897 nuts per ha) next to Vietnam (10,547 nuts per ha) who top in productivity among the major coconut growing countries.

As per the All India estimate (second advance) for the year 2020-21, the area and production of coconut in the country is 2.19 million hectares and 21,206.74

million nuts, respectively. The corresponding figures for the year 2019-20 were 2.17 million hectares and 20,308.70 million nuts. In comparison to the previous year, the area under coconut cultivation increased by 0.73%. The crop contributes around Rs 307,498 million (US\$ 4,142.50 M) to the country's GDP (2020-21) and earns export revenue of around Rs. 60737.90 million (US\$ 818.24 M). Due to its nutraceutical and health benefits, the crop is gaining importance in various parts of the world, which is realized by the increased domestic and international trade of coconut and coconut products.

In India, coconut is cultivated in 16 States and 4 Union Territories located in different parts of the country in varied agro-climatic zones. However, about 89.12 % of the area and 90.03% of production fall in the south peninsular region covering 4 States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Out of the total geographical area of 328.73 million hectares of India, the total agricultural land is 140.13 million hectare. About 2.19 million ha is covered under coconut which is about 1.56 % of the total agricultural area.



Annexure 1. World Area, Production and Productivity of Coconut (2019)						
Sl. No.	Country	Area ('000 ha)	% Share	Production (Million Nuts)	% Share	Productivity (Nuts/ha)
1	Philippines	3,652	29.06	14,765	21.81	4,043
2	Indonesia	3,413	27.16	14,140	20.89	4,143
3	India	2,150	17.11	21,288	31.45	9,897
4	Sri Lanka	444	3.53	3,086	4.56	6,950
5	Papua New Guinea	221	1.76	1,483	2.19	6,710
6	Vietnam	159	1.27	1,677	2.48	10,547
7	Thailand	124	0.99	645	0.95	5,202
8	Samoa	99	0.79	260	0.38	2,626
9	Vanuatu	90	0.72	303	0.45	3,367
10	Malaysia	86	0.68	537	0.79	6,244
11	Others	2131	16.96	9514	14.05	4465
	Total	12,568	100.00	67,698	100.00	5,387

Source: APCC (Currently ICC) Statistical Year Book- 2019

Annexure 2. Area, Production and Productivity of Coconut in India (2020-21 second advance estimate)

It may be noted that Indian agriculture is the home of small and marginal farmers (85%). Coconut is predominantly a smallholders' crop in India. About 12 million people, i.e. 0.99 % of the Indian population are dependent on coconut in the country and very meager portion of them are big farmers.

### Export & Import of coconut products

During the year 2020-21, export of coconut products (excluding coir) was valued at Rs. 2294.81 crores against Rs. 1,762.17 crores over the corresponding period previous year. Coconut exports have increased by 30.23 % in terms of value. Major items exported are Activated Carbon, Coconut Oil and Fresh Coconut in terms of value. USA is the largest importer of coconut shell based Activated Carbon followed by Sri Lanka and Germany in terms of value whereas UAE is the largest importer of Coconut Oil followed by Saudi Arabia and USA. UAE, Oman and Qatar are the major importers of Fresh coconut from India. Contribution of Activated Carbon alone to the total export is 65.99% whereas Coconut Oil contributed 11.15%, in terms of value. Over the last five years, value of export of coconut products showed an increasing trend from Rs. 2,061.70 crores in 2016-17, to Rs. 2294.81 crores in 2020-21. Also, the trade balance for last 5 years is positive.

During the year 2020-21, import of coconut products (excluding coir items) was valued at Rs

744.25 crores. The major items of import are Oil Cake followed by Copra and Desiccated Coconut in terms of value. Copra Oil cake alone recorded 67.38% and Copra recorded 12.88 % of the total coconut products imported during the year in terms of value. Increase in import of Oil Cake is mainly attributed to the difference in price compared to the domestic market price and is mainly used for manufacturing cattle feed. Indonesia is the largest supplier of copra expeller cake. Copra import was under advance authorization scheme, whereby the imported products are exported after value addition.

### Role of Coconut Development Board in the development of coconut sector in India

Coconut Development Board is a statutory body established by an act of Parliament called the Coconut Development Board Act, 1979 for the integrated development of coconut production and utilization in the country with focus on productivity increase and product diversification. The main thrust of the Board is adopting measures for the development of coconut industry, particularly small and marginal farmers comprising majority of coconut holdings.

The coconut palm indeed is a traditional plantation crop grown in India over the past 3000 years with longest mythological and historical record. In spite of the great antiquity attached to coconut crop in the country, organized efforts to develop the crop

2020-21 second estimate						
Sl No:	STATES	Area	% Share in Area ("000" ha)	Production (Million nuts)	% Share in Production	Productivity (nuts /ha)
1	Kerala	760.70	34.75	6974.50	32.89	9169
2	Karnataka	633.74	28.95	5409.01	25.51	8535
3	Tamil Nadu	442.32	20.21	5432.36	25.62	12282
4	Andhra Pradesh	114.31	5.22	1276.35	6.02	11166
5	Odisha	52.00	2.38	359.20	1.69	6908
6	West Bengal	31.71	1.45	394.59	1.86	12443
7	Maharashtra	29.95	1.37	523.66	2.47	17485
8	Gujarat	24.90	1.14	240.71	1.14	9667
9	Assam	20.82	0.95	184.60	0.87	8867
10	Bihar	12.16	0.56	78.39	0.37	6444
11	Tripura	4.62	0.21	18.45	0.09	3996
12	Chhattisgarh	1.56	0.07	0.96	0.00	617
13	Nagaland	1.06	0.05	9.02	0.04	8478
14	Telangana	0.79	0.04	8.68	0.04	11044
15	Mizoram	0.03	0.00	0.15	0.00	4350
16	Others	58.47	2.67	296.10	1.40	5064
		2189.14	100.00	21206.74	100.00	9687

Source : Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi

were made only about a century back and actual systematic efforts for development of coconut palm as a commercial crop begun in 1940s. The enquiry commission set up by the Government of India in 1943 recommended establishment of a statutory body at central level. Since then, Indian Central Coconut Committee was formed in February, 1945, later created Directorate of Coconut Development in 1966. In 1981, the Directorate of Coconut Development was abolished to pave the way for establishment of Coconut Development Board.

Four decades of CDB can be delineated into two stages considering the shift in strategy in its approach. The first two and half decades i.e. the first stage, the production aspects were concentrated and for the last one and half decade, being the second stage, value addition, marketing and exports are also focussed.

At the time of setting up of Coconut Development Board in 1980-81, the area and production of coconut in the country remained at 1.08 million ha and 5942 million nuts. However, in 202-21 coconut area has increased to 2.19 million ha producing 21207 million nuts with a national average productivity of 9687 nuts per ha per annum, the production and productivity being the highest in the world.

Focused efforts on area expansion have resulted in a quantum jump in the area and production of coconut in the States especially in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, West Bengal, Assam and Tripura and introduction of coconut cultivation in new areas. The productivity has also enhanced to about 80 % during the last 40 years.

The CDB has played a pivotal role for diversification from the copra-coconut oil centered industry and tremendous progress is achieved in the field of product diversification and by-product utilization of coconut. Under Technology Mission on Coconut (TMOc) many technologies were developed in association with premier Research Institutions in the country. Technologies developed for the manufacture of various products like; coconut cream, spray dried coconut milk powder, packed and preserved tender coconut water, virgin coconut oil, preserved and packed neera and its downstream products, and by-products like; coconut water based vinegar, nata-de-coco, industrial utilization of wood for the manufacture of particle boards etc. are the important achievements of the Board.

In India, during 2001, 2.6 % of total coconut production was being utilized for industrial purpose other than copra and coconut oil, which

has increased to 16 % during the last 2 decades with the TMOc interventions coupled with market promotion, extension & publicity activities including international exposure.

In the last decade, CDB focused the formation of three tier Farmers’ Collectives with the objective of collective purchase of inputs, undertaking plant protection measures, planned harvesting, produce aggregation, marketing, etc. by Coconut Producers’ Societies (CPS) at bottom level; and Primary processing, marketing, production of quality planting material, etc. by Coconut Producer Federations (CPF) at middle level. The main role of the apex level Coconut Producer Company (CPC) is setting up of processing unit for production of value added products from coconut procured from the member farmers and its marketing.

From 2002-03 to 2020-21, the Board had assisted establishment of 534 coconut processing units in different parts of the country, manufacturing varied coconut products. The annual processing capacity of these units is around 3600 million nuts.

Coconut and coconut products have very good market potential within as well as outside the country. For expanding the market for Indian coconut products across the globe, the Board is extending support to the industry through the programmes viz., support for sales outlets/ kiosks

for value added coconut products, facilitating participation in domestic exhibitions/ trade fairs and buyer-seller meets in metropolitan cities within the country, Encouraging coconut product exporters with Award for Export Excellence, Overseas and domestic industrial exposure visits to prosperous manufacturers, Organizing workshops/ seminars for entrepreneurs and exporters. Products of all countries are now available in all potential markets and good quality coconut products of India are being made available to international markets. ‘Niche’ markets for pharmaceutical, nutraceutical and cosmeceutical products from coconut are emerging, giving further boost to Indian opportunities.

The export of coconut products from India (other than coir products) has observed a progressive increase after the inception of the Technology Mission on Coconut during 2001-02, from Rs. 25.30 cr. to Rs. 179.81 cr. during 2008-09. CDB was notified as Export Promotion Council during the year 2009. The present export earnings from coconut and coconut products (excluding coir products) is Rs. 2294.81 cr.

Establishment of CDB opened up new vistas in the history of coconut cultivation and industry in the country. The focused approach yielded rewards in the coconut sector and it emerged as a viable plantation crop with a profitable processing sector to absorb the production. ■

Source: Souvenir, PLACROSYM XXIV 14-16 December 2021, Kochi, Kerala

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