REPORT ON WEBINAR ON DEVELOPMENT OF COCONUT HUSK-BASED PRODUCTS TO INCREASE ADDED VALUE IN THE ERA OF VUCA: BEST PRACTICES FOR COCONUT HUSK PRODUCT

Co-organised by International Coconut Community and Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation on 8th of June, 2021

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RESOURCE SPEAKERS

1. H.E. Mahendra Siregar, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia
2. Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, Executive Director for International Coconut Community (ICC)
3. Amb. Diar Nurbintoro, Acting Director for Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation
4. A. Radhakrishnan, Assistant Director for National Coir Training and Design Centre of India
5. Silvia Ten Houten, Founder of GoodHout
6. Galih Batara Muda, Founder of Roemah Kelapa Indonesia
7. Febiola Efriani, Vice President for Mahligai Indococo Fiber, PT
8. S. K. Gowthaman, Consultant and Exporter of Coir Based Products

MODERATOR

Dr. Dedie Tooy, Member of ICC Technical Working Group/Head of Agricultural Technology Department, Faculty of Agriculture, Sam Ratulangi University.

PARTICIPANTS, FROM:

Fiji, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Micronesia, Netherlands, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

1. Introduction

Background and objectives

Due to its many uses, such as the food and non-food goods, coconut (*Cocos nucifera L.*) is quite rightly referred to as the Tree of Life. Coconut is cultivated in more than 90 countries. The overall coconut export value is almost USD 11.3 billion in 2020.

Different items from the flesh, water and shell are produced, leaving the not well utilised coconut husk behind them. Coconut husk can actually be converted into several items, such as coconut coir, coconut yarn, coconut peat and mattress. If we made coir into dust or other products, we may receive 25 million MT annually for a value of USD 2.7 to 5.3 billion.

On 8th of June, 2021, International Coconut Community (ICC) and Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM CSSTC) organised **WEBINAR ON DEVELOPMENT OF COCONUT HUSK-BASED PRODUCTS TO INCREASE ADDED VALUE IN THE ERA OF VUCA: BEST PRACTICES FOR COCONUT HUSK PRODUCT** to further increase knowledge on processing of coconut husk. The general objective of the webinar is to create partnership to support the achievement of sustainable coconut development goals in coconut producing countries & development of coconut products to increase added value in the era of volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity (VUCA).

The specific objectives of the webinar are to:

a. Disseminate information and technologies to improve the value added of coconut products;

b. Encourage farmers to increase production and income from coconut;

c. Work with stakeholders in the coconut sector;

d. Invite the participants in Capacity Building programmes, from both ICC and NAM CSSTC member countries; and

e. Establish coconut stakeholders' networking.

During the webinar, we present speakers from governmental and private sectors from various countries including India, Indonesia and the Netherlands to impart their experiences in processing coconut husk into various products.

Scope of coconut husk-based products development and link to Sustainable Development Goals

Webinar sub-topics include:

a. Economic and environmental impacts of processing of coconut husk-based products;

b. Processing and development of coconut husk-based products;

c. Manufacture and export of coir and coir-based products hydroponic; and

d. Marketing scope of coconut husk-based products.

The key aspects for this webinar that are related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the following:

a. Coconut husk can provide a cost-effective supply of high-quality board materials in construction. As a result, it is possible that this will make housing more affordable in the future (SDG 11);

b. Coconut husk may be used to prevent coconut waste being produced in different manufacturing places. Losses and waste of agricultural activities will therefore be decreased, that are closely related to the target of SDG 12;

c. Coconut husk may become an ingredient for technique for purifying water and reducing pollutants. The utilisation of coconut husk can thus help to make clean water and sanitation available, strongly linked to SDG 6;

d. The use of coconut husk in agricultural potting processes can boost the yield of hydroponic plants. This enables us to address, directly related to SDG 2, the problem of under production in the agricultural sector.

Methods

The speakers gave their presentation in 10-15 minutes, while being moderated by a moderator. The moderator enabled the participants ask questions after all presenters had finished their presentation. The participants have two options: Either by turning their microphone on or by putting questions in the chat box. It took approximately 20 minutes for the Q&A session.

Results

The discussion held during the Webinar led in the following key points:

a. Stakeholders concerned with the development of coil board seek means of solving material science testing, scale-up and providing adequate engineering in order to assure long-term high-speed manufacturing.

b. In Indonesia, development of coil products can be supported by PT Mahligai Indococo, from the beginning to the end processing steps. The interested person may contact the company to help the machine work.

c. India has also carried out a feasibility study in the development of coconut husk-based cottages and geotextiles. SK Gowthaman from India was exploring a follow-up plan for the feasibility study with the UNDP Solomon Islands.

d. People can ask a Scientific Research Centre or government to provide clear instructions on coconut dust use, considering husk's development are now being developed by launching a joint venture or granting licenses to local governments.

Conclusion

The event introduced numerous things for the development of coconut husk products. This event is essential, as it connects the link between SDGs and the development of coconut. In recent years, negative coconut campaigns have increasingly influenced and have had a substantial impact on the growth of agriculture products. This event nonetheless made the participants understand that efforts have been made to develop coconut products, in particular in technological advancement. The coconut husk can in particular be an alternative to replacing the materials from wood panels.

In addition, coconut husk is environmentally friendly, in addition to its role in enhancing agricultural productivity. It can prevent water pollution and be employed in goods packaging and distribution systems by businesses.

PHOTO DOCUMENTATION