Coconut Sector Development in Maldives

Hussain Faisal
Assistant Director
Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture
Introduction

- Historical significance
- About 75% of total vegetation
- National Tree of Maldives “Cocos nucifera”
- Importation prohibited
- Every palm cut down – 2 has to be planted
Different of varieties

Fadihi Ruh’
Outer colour of tender coconut greyish green. Most common type of coconut palm found in Maldives

Nulhu Ruh’
Outer colour of tender coconut blackish green. Water of this type is most preferred. Also different part of this palm is used for medicinal purposes.
Rathu Ruh’

Outer colour of tender coconut is golden yellow. Also used for medicinal purpose.

Dhabu Ruh’

Outer colour of tender coconut is a colour in between Fadihi and Rathu ruh’ tender coconut outer colour.
Outer colour of tender coconut is brighter than Rathu ruh tender coconut outer colour.

Dhondhabu Ruh’

Ripen lemon coloured outer colour of tender coconut

Dhon Ruh’
Usage of coconut palm

Direct Products
- Coconut
- Tender coconut
- Husk
- Shells
- Kernel
- Leaves
- Wood
- Copra ETC....

Indirect Products
VCO
- Soap
- Lotion
- Biscuits
Amenity
Agro- Eco Tourism

Socio Environment
- Protection to islands
- Protection from soil erosion
- Wind break
- Food security
- Employment opportunities
Challenges

* Old age of current stock
* Climate change
* Insects and diseases
* Urbanization
* Changing environment
* Increase in price of coconut products

![Chart: Price of Tender coconut vs Avg. Price (MVR) of Coconut]
Way Forward

• Agro forestry
  • Reducing the completion between agriculture

• Stock Assessment

• Value Addition
  • VCO
  • Copra
  • Mat weaving

• Rejuvenation of old growth

• Institutional changes

• Capacity building

• Awareness creation
Production of Virgin Coconut Oil and Value-Added Products

Dehusking of coconuts using a traditional dehusking tool

Grating of coconut meat

Milk extraction machine
Mixing coconut milk and water

Pouring the coconut milk into fermentation containers

Harvesting of oil after fermentation

Pouring the milk into the cream separator feed bowl
Preliminary heating of coconut oil/cream

VCO Filter set-up
Other products

Cookies

Muffins

Cream

Lotion
Conclusion

Needs to reduce price of coconut and other products through coconut palm rejuvenation programe. Also need to diversify the coconut industry addressing to current changes to capture the maximum sustainable benefit from this extraordinary natural resource.
Thank you