

*Check against delivery*

Closing Remarks

by

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on the occasion of the Webinar on Health and Economic Benefits of Virgin Coconut Oil  
(VCO) during COVID-19 and Beyond

08 December 2020

Zoom Meeting Platform

*Dr. Jelfina Alouw, International Coconut Community Executive Director,*

*Honourable speakers,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I thank you all for your support within this webinar on “Health and Economic Benefits of Virgin Coconut Oil-VCO during COVID-19 and Beyond.” I express my deep gratitude to the International Coconut Community-ICC Executive Director, the moderator as well as the host of project of “Online Training and Webinar Series: Stay Healthy and Productive During COVID-19 Pandemic.”

It was a pleasure to work with the ICC team in close collaboration, who displayed unprecedented enthusiasm for the project’s work.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the speakers of their engagement and their selfless dedication to the progress of the project, including this Webinar.

*Honourable speakers,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

We began this project with hopes and expectations for the improvement of coconut businesses by coconut farmers and producers. The trainings we had since September-since the start of the project, and the steady number of participants to date have reflected this.

From the very outset, a number of crucial messages have been given due regard by the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation-NAM Centre. In particular, the NAM Centre urged participants to pass on the knowledge and

resources they obtained about coconut development, to enhance coconut productivity, to develop the know-how to produce high quality coconut, to foster the benefit of coconut and to collaborate with the coconut industry's stakeholders. The project of ICC and NAM Centre contributed to these efforts as seen in the survey results of the participants.

*Honourable speakers,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Let's just see the participant list. We have several countries in attendance, each of which is a mutual member country of the NAM Centre and the ICC, that will further advance in the search for potential COVID-19 treatment with Virgin Coconut Oil-VCO.

This webinar is a forum where we will be able to tell ourselves, where we should deal with cross-cutting issues of coconut production.

We gather here to understand, evaluate, create a link between agriculture and health and then move forward.

We heard from speakers what is being done and what is needed on the ground to encourage VCO trading as well as develop VCO-based medicines and diets for COVID-19 patients.

Speakers spread a new approach to help the ongoing COVID-19 global response. We have built a bridge linking healthcare and agricultural sectors. What they have accomplished does not, however, end with this event but has its life beyond virtual interaction.

*Honourable speakers,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

In this spirit, I would like to share with you four key messages taken from the discussions.

First, exploration of vegetated-based products with antiviral potential gained attentions. The phase of research on prospects for coconut oil and its derivatives to treat COVID-19 could thus inspire stakeholders in the coconut industry to see the economic advantage.

Second, further investigations are required to investigate the health benefits of VCO to COVID-19.

The use of VCO for patients has promising results. This should be shared extensively. However, sharing is not the end target. Follow-up could provide a stricter link between the research and the global norm settings.

Third, compared to other conventional coconut goods, VCO offers the highest net return. The long-term, brighter prospects of the VCO industry should therefore encourage the production of VCO.

Fourth, in order to reduce the poverty, farmers require capital, technical and entrepreneurial skills, equipment, resources and market access. Marketing by farmers requires strong farming organisations.

*Dear participants,*

These four messages will feed into the powerful VCO industry as the result of this webinar.

The NAM Centre and the ICC play an important role in helping their mutual member countries realise the above-mentioned vision and face related challenges. The NAM Centre is dedicated to addressing member countries' strong call.

I am taking measures at the moment to boost the performance, effectiveness and international cooperation of the NAM Centre.

Last but not least, I want to thank again the moderator, the host, the speakers and participants.

I also thank all those who work behind the scenes, publication officers, technicians and my NAM Centre colleagues.

Thank you.