

Opening Remarks

by

Ambassador Ronny Prasetyo Yuliantoro,

Director for NAM CSSTC

on the occasion of the Online Training on Processing and Marketing of Coconut Sugar

06 October 2020

Zoom Platform

The Honourable International Coconut Community-ICC-Executive Director, Dr. Jelfina Alouw,

Mr. Vincent Johnson, the Moderator,

Dr. Anandharamkrishnan, Director for Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology,

Ms. Sarapee Yuadyong, Managing Director for Chi-wadi Products,

Philippine Coconut Authority Deputy Administrator for Research and Development, Ms.

Erlene Manohar,

Mr. Alit Pirmansah, host of the Zoom meeting,

Honourable participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to welcome you all to the “*Online Training on Processing and Marketing of Coconut Sugar*” conducted by the International Coconut Community and the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation.

This training is a set of the webinar and online training projects “*Stay Healthy and Productive during COVID-19 Pandemic*” date from September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, in which approximately 200 people from 11 countries took part to learn the know-how to process high-quality *nata de coco*.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In addition to the coconut initiative, my organisation, the Centre, has been funding over a hundred and fifteen initiatives. Agriculture was associated to nine percent of total programmes. Since 1995, the Centre has also been active in jointly sponsored projects with the ASEAN Foundation, USAID, International IDEA, KOICA Timor-Leste, International Atomic Energy Agency, IO-RA, and ICC.

Honourable Executive Director,

Distinguished Speakers and Participants,

No one should underestimate the value of the webinar or online training project on coconut.

We strongly committed, to achieve the developing countries' objective of achieving sustainable development focused on peoples.

The collaboration between the Centre and ICC has begun since July 2020, taking into account that enhanced coconut production skills and expertise would be of great advantage for human resources in developing countries. Through this particular partnership, which will last until 2022, the two organisations will play a crucial role in improving the technology, innovation and competitiveness of the coconut industry – while not ignoring the demands of our member countries and contemporary international development challenges.

The Centre has constructive steps in place to utilise these modalities. The training, planned for 2020, includes priority areas like economic resilience in the Covid-19 pandemic. This is one step so that coconut-based companies and small businesses will still make profit or continue to survive, if the markets reopen. I believe that this noble aspiration is in line with the ICC's emphasis on promoting, regulating and harmonising all activities in the coconut industry that support the lives of coconut farmers.

Honourable Executive Director,

Distinguished Speakers and Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I understand that this training is supposed to encourage farmers to increase coconut sugar production to meet domestic and global demand for coconut sugar.

To be precise, this training will cover the issue of:

- Superior aspects of coconut sugar from other raw materials;
- Coconut sugar manufacturing and quality standards;
- Enriching knowledge from the various aspects of coconut sugar;
- Strategies for market penetration;
- How coconut sugar product growth will be developed; and
- General subject related to coconut sugar business sustainable development strategies, with a focus on the aspect of providing sustainable raw materials.

It cannot be ignored that this training is important to mitigating the global economic impacts of the Covid-19.

It is pleasing to note that the outcomes of this training will hopefully solve the many issues we face, among them a lack of information and insight into how small and medium-sized businesses can still benefit despite lockdowns and shutdowns of factories.

Honourable Executive Director,

Distinguished speakers, moderator, host and participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals-SDGs, the Centre mainly supports any initiative and impact made by everyone in the coconut sector.

Having this in mind, your task today is to explore how the positive contribution of coconut farming to socio-economic and environmentally sustainable development can be promoted and how partner farmers can boost their welfare as producers in the supply chain.

I have no doubt that this learning and discussion will bring in new ideas and international coconut technology, and research cooperation. I am sure that participants will give their best to remain active during the Q&A session, to define key areas for closer cooperation between their governments as a tool for a sustainable development in the country. So, I encourage all of you to take the training seriously and to work as closely as possible to make this happen.

On this note, I wish to declare the opening of the “*Online Training on Processing and Marketing of Coconut Sugar.*”

Thank you.