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The membership of the Chamber is open to all Exporters of products & services and suppliers of products and services to the export industry.

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NATIONAL CHAMBER OF EXPORTERS OF SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka's Coconut Industry Between Opportunity and Constraint

Sri Lanka's culture has long been deeply intertwined with the coconut tree. From being a staple in every local kitchen to becoming a major export commodity, the industry's reach in the global market has been nothing short of impressive, especially in products with higher value addition. The industry achieved record-high growth in 2025, while coconut-based products have continued to perform well in 2026 so far as well, recording a 20.76% growth in Q1 2026 compared to the same period in 2025.

Meanwhile, the global coconut products market continues to expand rapidly. The market grew from USD 26.39 billion in 2025 to USD 28.14 billion in 2026 and is projected to continue growing at a CAGR of 6.99%, reaching USD 42.36 billion by 2032. Sri Lanka's main competitors include Indonesia, the Philippines, India and Vietnam, all of which currently lead the market, especially in terms of volume. Sri Lanka's strength, however, lies in value addition. For example, recent export revenue growth was supported significantly by higher-value kernel derivatives such as coconut cream and coconut milk powder.

At the same time, a large share of Sri Lanka's coconut production is consumed domestically. In 2024, domestic consumption accounted for around 60% of total production. Competing countries, especially Vietnam, operate with a more export-focused ecosystem and a higher value-added ratio. Moreover, Sri Lanka continues to lag behind partly because these countries are larger economies with higher yields and better investment in processing and innovation.

This shows that beneath Sri Lanka's positive export performance lie several layers of challenges. As such, Sri Lanka's coconut industry heads into the next few years with both encouraging progress and challenges visible across the sector.

One of the industry's largest concerns remains the shortage of raw nuts available for production. While manufacturing capacity has expanded steadily in recent years, the supply of coconuts has not increased at the same pace. In addition, seasonal fluctuations and supply chain intermediaries continue to affect output. These challenges are now directly affecting the consistency required by exporters competing in international markets. Adding to this, the ongoing crisis in the Middle East is impacting the country's export potential.

Policy action, development and expansion programmes, along with collaborative efforts by both authorities and the industry, are required to address these challenges. At the same time, there are already signs of longer-term planning beginning to take shape.

The expansion of the Northern Coconut Triangle, fertilizer subsidy programmes and the rehabilitation of existing coconut lands indicate that authorities are placing greater attention on production sustainability, which could support longer-term export targets.

However, the industry's 2030 goals are ambitious, aiming to increase yield per tree and reaching USD 2.5 billion in export earnings. This will require consistent policy support, better productivity, improved research and development, innovation efforts, dedicated market research, alongside more integrated industry research initiatives. Moreover, closer coordination between growers, manufacturers and exporters will be highly beneficial for the industry moving forward. Expanding the strategic importation of raw materials for re-export could serve as another solution to the raw material shortage, although the current global situation continues to affect this possibility.

There are also unrealized market opportunities that Sri Lanka could turn to with more focus. China, for instance, remains a relatively underdeveloped market for Sri Lankan coconut exports, with exports currently limited mainly to industrial inputs such as fibre and activated carbon. Moreover, Sri Lanka is moving toward obtaining Geographical Indication (GI) certification for king coconut. This has been recognized as a growth potential for Sri Lanka and faster establishment and proper adoption of the certification could become important for the export sector moving forward. Sri Lanka also holds a distinct global position in the activated carbon sector. Because dense coconut shells produce carbon with superior adsorption properties, the sector is essential for high-tech industries. Driven by this demand, the sector's export value grew by 24% in 2025, highlighting an opportunity for the industry to further expand its potential in the time to come.

Sri Lanka's next phase of the coconut industry will depend less on expansion alone and more on how effectively Sri Lanka manages supply, productivity, quality and value addition together. As the global demand for coconut-based products will continues to remain strong, it is up to the industry and the authorities to collectively ensure the supply and stability needed to fully benefit from it.

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Promotion of Good Values

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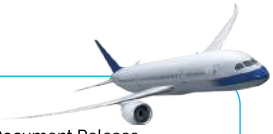
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Nordic Market Access Opportunities for Sri Lanka's Coconut Sector.

Mr. Kapila Fonseka

His Excellency the Ambassador
Embassy of Sri Lanka in Stockholm, Sweden
Concurrently accredited to Denmark, Norway, Finland, Iceland, Estonia, Latvia & Lithuania.

The market for food products that are both plant-based and organic in the Nordics is growing. Coconut oil has become a popular substitute for unhealthy cooking, baking, and frying oils in Nordic kitchens due to its various health advantages and high smoke point. Further, its rich moisturizing properties have made it a sought-after ingredient in skincare and hair care products across the continent.

Moreover, a variety of coconut-based products have been introduced because of innovation in the Nordic snack and dessert sectors. Products such as organic coconut milk, virgin coconut oil, coconut flour, and natural snacks are gaining shelf space rapidly in Nordic markets as demand for ethical, traceable, and clean-label alternatives continues to rise.

Sri Lanka's coconut industry is well-positioned to meet this demand. Once mainly associated with desiccated coconut and coir fiber, it now exports wide-ranging products, including virgin coconut oil, coconut milk, coconut water, activated carbon, coco peat, and coconut flour.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka already has a significant presence in Europe. Sri Lanka's total exports into the Swedish market reached USD 119.13 million in 2025, a 16.90% increase since 2024. According to the Export Development Board, liquid coconut milk leads the coconut category as the primary export product, recording an import value of USD 4.77 million in 2025, a 16.33% year-on-year increase, with CBL Global Foods Ltd as the top Sri Lankan exporter to Sweden. In addition, exporters including KAP, Haycarb, and Coco House are active exporters in Europe, holding EU certifications and are well-positioned for the Nordic markets.

While Sweden remains a high-potential, under-penetrated market, it is nonetheless dominated by Thai and Indonesian brands across retail chains such as ICA, Coop, and Willys, leaving clear space for Sri Lankan producers.

The Sri Lankan Embassy in Stockholm, through its commercial section, provides market intelligence, business introductions, and access to trade bodies, importers, and buyers across the eight Nordic and Baltic countries including Sweden, helping Sri Lankan exporters identify distributors, manage EU regulatory requirements, and connect with buyer networks across the region.





Embassy of Sri Lanka in Paris invites exporters to explore growing opportunities in the French market

Ms. Prasadi Boomawalage

First Secretary (Commercial)
Embassy of Sri Lanka, Paris, France

Overview

Sri Lanka's coconut industry is one of the country's most dynamic agro-export sectors, generating sizeable foreign exchange earnings while supporting rural livelihoods and value-added manufacturing. In recent years, global demand for coconut-based products has expanded rapidly due to the growing popularity of plant-based diets, natural food ingredients, and sustainable materials. Within the European Union, France provides an attractive yet still under-utilized market for Sri Lankan coconut products. With a population of nearly 68 million and a rapidly expanding market for organic and vegan food products, France offers immense potential for value-added agricultural exports. Sri Lanka's exports to France are currently concentrated in apparel and rubber products, with total exports reaching over USD 260 million in recent years, indicating considerable room for diversification into high-value food ingredients and specialty agricultural products.

Competitiveness of Sri Lanka's Coconut Industry

Sri Lanka has progressively transformed its coconut sector from a supplier of raw commodities into a producer of value-added products such as desiccated coconut, virgin coconut oil, coconut milk powder, coconut flour, and coconut cream, alongside industrial products such as activated carbon and coco peat. Global demand for these products continues to rise, specifically in the health food, vegan dairy alternative, cosmetics, and horticulture sectors. In this context, Sri Lanka's preferential access to the European market through the EU GSP+ Scheme provides an important competitive advantage. Several coconut-based products, including desiccated coconut, coconut milk powder, coconut flour, virgin coconut oil, coconut sugar, and coco peat horticultural substrates, can benefit from reduced or zero customs duties under this arrangement, allowing Sri Lankan exporters to compete more effectively in the European market.

Market Opportunities and Emerging Demand Trends

Consumer trends in France further reinforce these opportunities. Demand for plant-based dairy alternatives, gluten-free baking ingredients, and organic food products has expanded substantially in recent years, creating new entry points for coconut-based ingredients in the food processing sector. Meanwhile, coconut-derived horticultural substrates such as coco peat are gaining popularity as environmentally sustainable alternatives to traditional peat-based growing media in European agriculture. Strategic participation in major international trade exhibitions such as SIAL Paris (17-20 October 2026) and Food Ingredients Europe (FI Europe) could further improve Sri Lanka's visibility among European buyers, distributors, and food manufacturers.

Strategic Market Access and Trade Promotion

In this setting, the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Paris stands ready to support Sri Lankan exporters interested in exploring opportunities in the French market for coconut-based products by facilitating business networking, providing market intelligence, and connecting exporters with potential importers and distributors. Thus, by strengthening value-added production, guaranteeing compliance with European quality and sustainability standards, and actively engaging with international buyers, coconut-based exports from Sri Lanka to France could be significantly expanded in the coming years.



Expanding Opportunities in the Premium Japanese Market for Sri Lanka's Coconut Exports



Prof. Pivithuru Janak Kumarasinghe

His Excellency the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Japan
The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Japan

Japan continues to be a highly promising destination for Sri Lanka's value-added coconut products, driven by a steadily growing consumer preference for healthy, natural, and sustainably sourced food and lifestyle products. While coconut exports currently stand for a niche segment within overall bilateral trade, recent trends indicate encouraging growth, specifically in premium and specialized coconut-based products that are closely associated with Japanese market expectations.

Among the product categories gaining growing momentum in Japan are virgin coconut oil, desiccated coconut, coconut milk, coconut cream, coconut flour, as well as coconut shell-based activated carbon and coco peat products. In particular, virgin coconut oil has seen rising demand amid Japan's growing interest in wellness, functional foods, and natural personal care solutions. Meanwhile, activated carbon and coconut coir derived from Sri Lankan coconuts continue to play important roles in Japan's industrial and horticultural sectors, showing the versatility and value of these products.

Sri Lanka also benefits from Japan's Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), under which selected coconut-based exports such as coconut oil are granted preferential duty rates. This provides Sri Lankan exporters with a distinct competitive advantage in a market known for its stringent quality standards and discerning consumers.

A notable recent milestone was Sri Lanka's successful participation at FOODEX Japan 2026, held in March 2026. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Japan, in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Export Development Board (EDB) and with the support of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), organized a national pavilion at this prestigious international food exhibition. A total of nine Sri Lankan companies participated, including leading coconut-based exporters such as HDDES Extracts (Pvt) Ltd, successfully showcasing Sri Lanka's growing capabilities in premium coconut and value-added food products. The event provided a valuable platform for direct engagement with Japanese importers, distributors, and retail buyers, facilitating new business opportunities and partnerships.

Looking ahead, the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Japan will continue to promote Sri Lankan coconut products through trade exhibitions actively, targeted buyer outreach, and business matchmaking initiatives. Future opportunities are expected to expand further in areas such as organic coconut foods, sustainable packaging solutions, and eco-friendly industrial coconut derivatives, positioning Japan as an increasingly attractive and strategic market for Sri Lanka's coconut export sector.







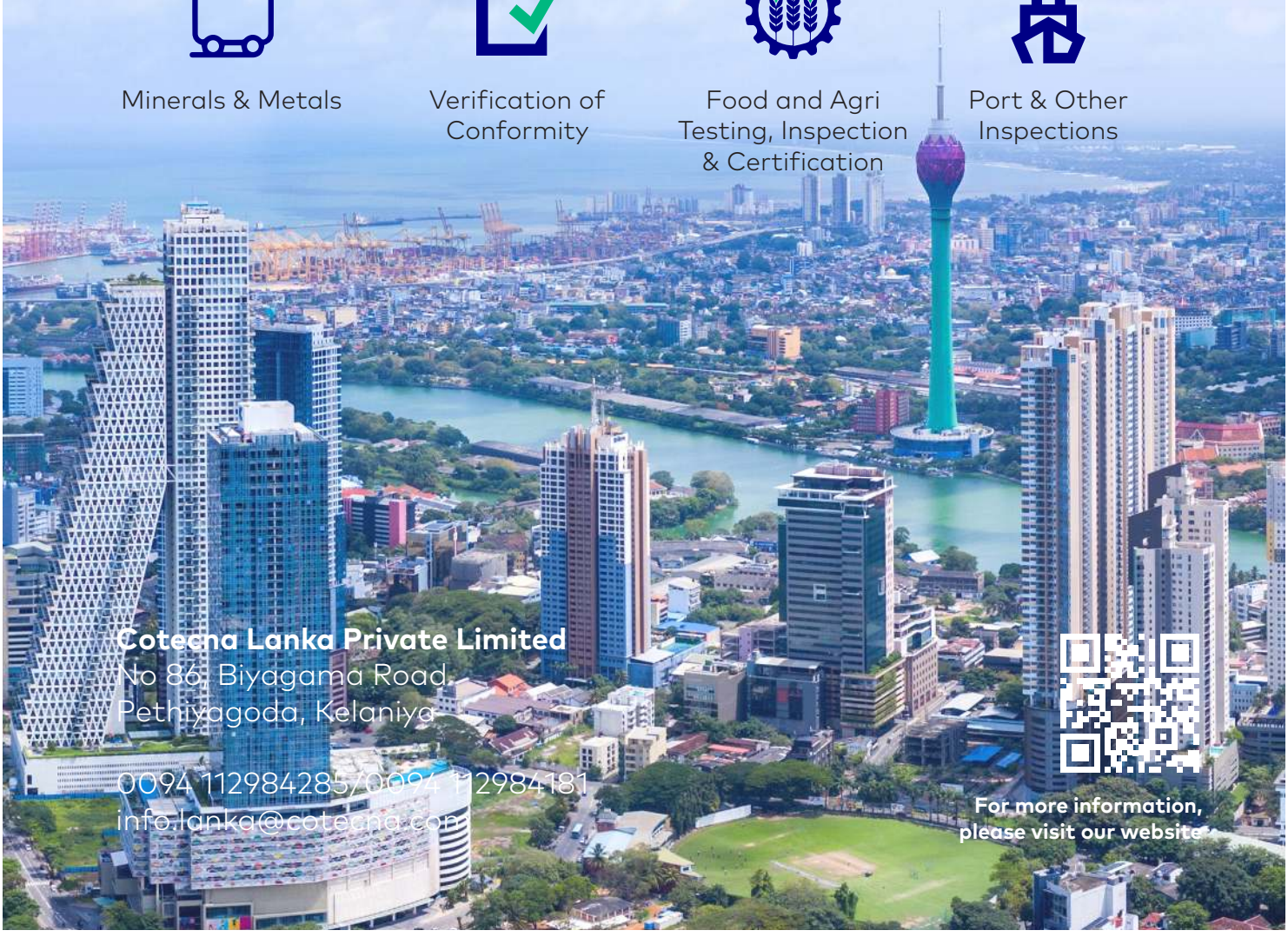


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Sri Lanka's Coconut Industry: Progress, Challenges and Opportunities

Sri Lanka's coconut industry remains one of the country's longstanding agricultural and export sectors, supporting thousands of growers, manufacturers, processors, and exporters. The industry recorded one of its best export years in 2025, with earnings reaching nearly USD 1.2 billion, well ahead of the USD 850 million target set for the year. This momentum has carried into 2026; coconut-based exports recorded a 20.76% increase to USD 314.09 million during January–March 2026 compared to the same period last year. This growth was supported by gains across all major product categories, including coconut kernel products (up 21.05%), fibre products (up 0.04%), and shell products (up 52.68%). Activated carbon, one of the sector's highest-value products, reached USD 23.43 million in March 2026 alone, a 36.46% increase year-on-year, while coconut shell products grew by 44.31% in the same month. These figures reflect Sri Lanka's strong global position in high-value-added products.

Sri Lanka is one of the world's top five exporters of coconut products, with the highest demand seen in brown fibre, coconut kernel products, and desiccated coconut. Additionally, virgin coconut oil, coconut water, activated carbon, and coir fibre products round out the sector's main export goods.

Meanwhile, national production remains centered in the Coconut Triangle covering Kurunegala, Puttalam, and Gampaha, which contributes around 70% of national output. Sri Lanka is also establishing a second zone, the Northern Coconut Triangle, spanning Jaffna, Mannar, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, and Vavuniya. Launched in 2025 as a three-year programme running through 2027, this longer-term development covers roughly 40,000 acres and distributes approximately one million seedlings annually, backed by around Rs. 30,000 per acre in irrigation support. However, commercial yields from this region are not expected for about five years.

Despite strong headline performance, the sector is managing several challenges, most notably the conflict in the Middle East. Shipping route disruptions to Europe and the United States continue to add transit time and freight costs, while rising fuel prices have compounded the pressure. For king coconut exporters, the impact has been especially severe. More than 95% of Sri Lanka's king coconut shipments were traditionally destined for markets in Dubai and Oman. Because these routes are severely disrupted, certain shipments have been diverted to airfreight, incurring substantially higher costs. Consequently, export revenues for king coconuts have declined drastically. Overall, the Coconut Development Authority (CDA) estimates that 12% to 14% of total coconut exports have been affected by these disruptions. To offset this, the Authority is actively seeking alternative markets.

A separate pressure is building on the supply side. Despite expanded processing capacity, the industry faces a shortage of raw nuts to meet demand. This is expected to tighten further between September and December due to an anticipated seasonal drop in yields.

To address domestic coconut wastage, the CDA has been running an integrated marketing communication campaign to educate the general public on reducing household waste. On the production side, the government has extended its fertilizer subsidy programme, allocating Rs. 2,500 million for the current year.

Meanwhile, global demand is moving in the sector's favor. Growing international preference for plant-based food alternatives has driven up demand for coconut milk and coconut milk powder. To capitalize on this, the CDA has granted permission to desiccated coconut manufacturers to produce coconut milk and powder at their factories during the peak season, representing the highest tier of value addition in the coconut trade.

Looking toward 2030 targets, the Coconut Development Board (CCB) aims to increase yields to 80 nuts per tree per year (up from the current national average of 45), achieve an annual output of 4,200 million nuts, and secure USD 2.5 billion in export income. Approximately USD 1.5 billion of that export target is already considered to be on track. Reaching the target of 80 nuts per tree relies on consistent fertilizer and irrigation support, which is currently the focus of the government's Coconut Land Rehabilitation Programme, targeting 100,000 acres within the main Coconut Triangle.

Sri Lanka's coconut industry has earned a solid global standing, but building on this success will depend heavily on how effectively the sector's structural and logistical challenges are tackled moving forward.

The Tree of Life Behind a Billion-Dollar Export Success



Mr. Thideema Perera

General Manager – Sales & Marketing
Rileys (Pvt) Ltd.
NCE Council Member and Sectoral Head for Coconut and Coconut-based Products, overseeing and providing advisory support to sectoral members.

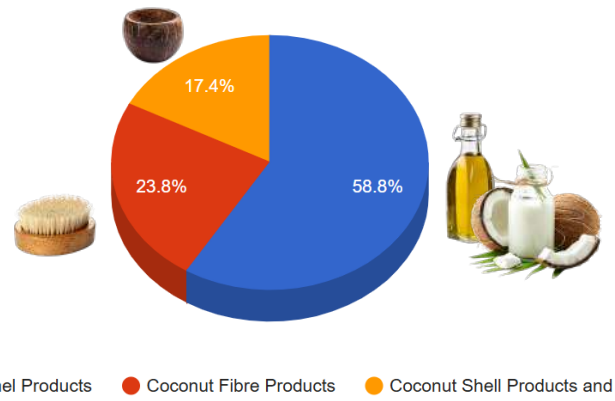
Sri Lanka's coconut industry contributes significantly to rural employment, SME development, sustainable agriculture, and industrial manufacturing, supporting thousands of livelihoods being one of the country's most valuable export sectors. At the center of the industry lies Sri Lanka's traditional Coconut Triangle, constituting Kurunegala, Puttalam, and Gampaha, which continues to serve as the heartland of coconut cultivation.

From Plantation to Premium Global Products

In Sri Lanka, virtually every part of the coconut tree is commercially utilized. Kernel-based products dominate export growth, which include desiccated coconut, coconut milk, coconut cream, virgin coconut oil, coconut flour, and coconut water. Among them, virgin coconut oil has emerged as a major global wellness product.



Compossition of Exports Coconut Sector - (in US$ million) - 2025



Source: *Export Development Board – Export Performance*

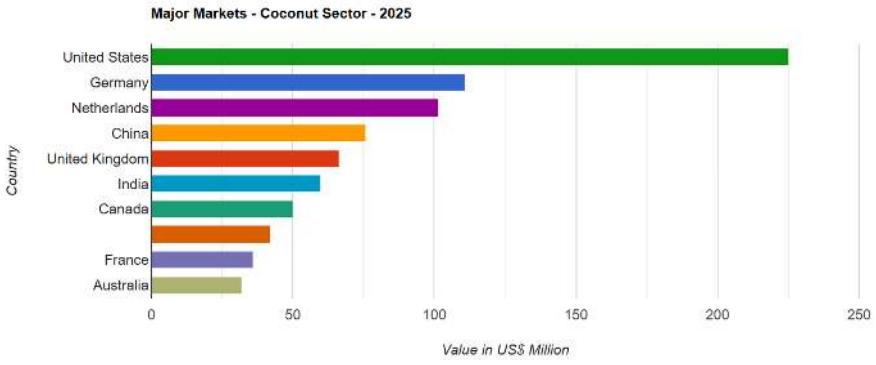
Meanwhile, the rapid rise of vegan and dairy-free lifestyles across Europe, North America, and the Middle East has expanded demand for coconut milk and coconut cream.

Innovation in the industry is not limited to food. For example, coconut shells are now processed into activated carbon, charcoal, shell powder, and handicrafts. Sri Lanka is one of the world's leading producers of high-quality activated carbon.

Furthermore, Sri Lanka's coir and coco peat industries have become global success stories in sustainable agriculture, with demand continuing to increase rapidly. Coir fibre, geotextiles, mattress fibre, and coco peat are exported worldwide as eco-friendly alternatives for horticulture, hydroponics, greenhouse cultivation, and organic farming.

A Global Market Driven by Health and Sustainability

The shift to organic, plant-based, and environmentally friendly products has fueled growing global demand for products like coconut milk and water, virgin coconut oil, and activated carbon.



Source: *Export Development Board – Export Performance*



A Billion-Dollar Milestone

Sri Lanka's strength lies not only in raw production, but in value addition, premium quality, and export-oriented manufacturing. 2025 marked a milestone for the industry, as for the first time, export earnings from coconut and coconut-based products exceeded USD 1 billion.

The achievement highlighted a successful transition toward higher-value processed products, with major contributors including coconut milk, coconut cream, virgin coconut oil, activated carbon, and coco peat.

Challenges Behind the Growth Story

Challenges include climate change—one of the biggest threats affecting crop yields and long-term production planning. Additionally, pest infestations, fungal diseases, and wildlife damage cause significant crop losses annually.

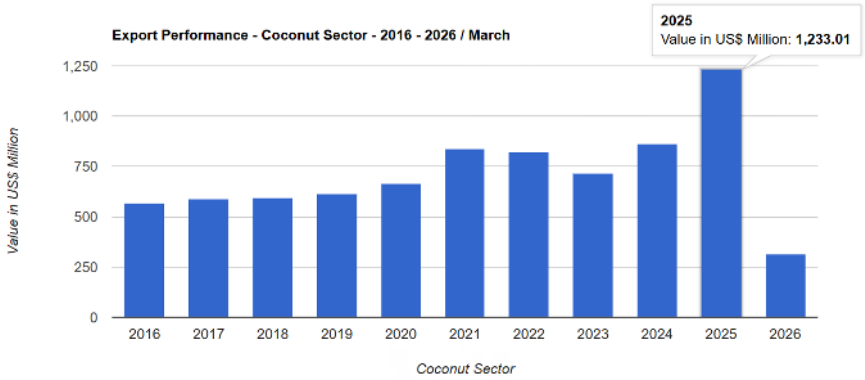
Moreover, labour shortages are another serious concern, with fewer young workers entering plantation-related employment. Meanwhile, increasing operational costs including fertilizer, fuel, electricity, packaging materials, and freight charges are reducing international price competitiveness.

The ongoing Middle East conflict and shipping disruptions have added further strain to the industry, with exporters experiencing higher freight rates, shipment delays, container shortages, and increased marine insurance costs, particularly for Europe-bound cargo.

Yet despite these challenges, demand from Middle Eastern markets including the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Oman has remained relatively strong, especially for coconut milk, coconut cream, and Halal-certified products.

Facing Growing Global Competition

India benefits from vast cultivation areas and lower production costs, while Indonesia leverages massive plantation



Source: *Export Development Board – Export Performance*

systems and economies of scale. The Philippines and Thailand dominate premium beverage categories through advanced branding and processing technologies, while Vietnam has rapidly modernized its processing sector with competitive labour costs and efficient ASEAN trade connectivity.

Nevertheless, Sri Lanka continues to maintain a strong competitive advantage in premium-quality products, activated carbon manufacturing, organic-certified exports, and value-added processing.

The Northern Coconut Triangle: The Industry's Next Frontier

One of the industry's most ambitious strategies is the proposed expansion of coconut cultivation in the Northern Province. The initiative focuses on developing large-scale cultivation in Mannar, Mullaitivu, and Vavuniya to strengthen long-term production capacity and reduce dependence on traditional cultivation regions.

The project includes plantation development, irrigation expansion, high-yield seedling distribution, infrastructure improvements, and private-sector investment promotion. If successfully implemented, it could become one of the most significant agricultural expansion programs in decades.

The Road Ahead

The industry's journey from traditional agriculture to a billion-dollar export industry reflects decades of innovation, adaptation, and value creation.

While challenges continue to test the sector, the long-term outlook remains promising.

Future success will depend on improving productivity, expanding sustainable cultivation, strengthening climate resilience, modernizing technology, and continuing the shift toward premium value-added products.

With sustained investment, policy support, research innovation, and private-sector collaboration, Sri Lanka is well positioned to unlock even greater export potential in the decade ahead.

New Market Trends Inspired by Research and Innovation in Sri Lanka's Coconut Industry



The coconut industry of Sri Lanka is undergoing a remarkable transformation driven by scientific research, technological innovation, and changing global consumer preferences. Traditionally known for exports such as desiccated coconut and coconut oil, the industry is now moving rapidly toward high-value, knowledge-based, and sustainability-oriented products.

One notable innovation introduced by the Coconut Research Institute of Sri Lanka (CRISL) is the production process for Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO). VCO has become one of the fastest-growing value-added products in the global coconut industry, creating strong market opportunities for coconut-producing countries such as Sri Lanka. It is widely used as a cooking oil, dietary supplement, salad dressing, functional food ingredient, and in the cosmetics and personal care industries.

Recent research findings from CRISL indicate that the future growth of the coconut industry will largely depend on value addition, efficient resource use, climate resilience, and product diversification. Research efforts are increasingly focused on functional foods, nutraceutical products, sustainable industrial materials, and environmentally friendly processing technologies.

Growing global demand for health-oriented coconut products is creating new market opportunities. Products such as virgin coconut oil, coconut milk beverages, coconut flour, coconut protein, and low-glycemic food products are becoming increasingly popular among health-conscious consumers. Research conducted by CRISL on low glycemic-index (GI) coconut-based foods and defatted coconut flour reflects the industry's shift toward functional nutrition markets. The increasing export demand for defatted coconut products further highlights the rise of wellness and plant-based nutrition as key market drivers.

Sri Lanka is now internationally recognized for value-added coconut products such as activated carbon, coco peat substrates, shell charcoal, coconut cream, and specialized fiber products. Activated carbon produced from coconut shells has become a strategic export product due to growing global demand for water purification, air filtration, and environmental applications. Similarly, coco peat and coconut substrates are widely used in precision agriculture and greenhouse cultivation, creating strong demand from horticultural markets in Europe, North America, Africa, and Asia.

CRISL has introduced public-private partnership programs for the production of improved coconut seedlings. New developments in soil health management, tissue culture propagation, and drought-tolerant planting materials are expected to strengthen raw material supply chains and improve productivity under changing climate conditions.



Prof. B.P. Ajith Jayaweera

Chairman, Coconut Research Institute of Sri Lanka (CRI)

Modern consumers seek transparency, traceability, sustainability, and ethical sourcing in a digitally driven consumer world. As a result, exporters are encouraged to adopt internationally recognized quality standards, carbon-conscious production systems, and environmentally friendly packaging. Products with organic certification, clean-label positioning, and fair-trade recognition increasingly attract premium prices in international markets.

The future outlook for Sri Lanka's coconut industry is highly promising. Global demand for sustainable bio-based materials, plant-based nutrition, and environmentally responsible industrial products continues to grow. This transformation demonstrates how research and innovation continue to shape new market trends and strengthen Sri Lanka's position in the global coconut industry.

Transforming Sri Lanka's Coconut Industry through Innovation, Value Addition and Global Market Diversification





Mr. Shantha Ranatunga

Chairman,
Coconut Development Authority of Sri Lanka (CDA)

Sri Lanka's coconut industry has continued to demonstrate remarkable resilience and global competitiveness, emerging as one of the country's most valuable export sectors. In 2025, the sector surpassed the historic milestone of USD 1 billion in export earnings from coconut production, while export earnings during the first quarter of 2026 alone reached approximately USD 313.67 million, reflecting a strong year-on-year growth direction.

Globally, the coconut industry is rapidly evolving beyond traditional commodities into a highly diversified, innovation-driven sector. International markets are increasingly demanding value-added, health-focused, sustainable, and environmentally friendly coconut products. Countries such as the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam are heavily investing in advanced coconut processing technologies, functional food innovations, organic product lines, coconut-based beverages, activated carbon applications, biodegradable products, and sustainable horticultural substrates.

Sri Lanka has already established a strong foundation in this transformation. Today, products such as moulded coir products, coconut shell activated carbon, coconut milk, desiccated coconut, virgin coconut oil, coconut milk powder, coconut cream and coconut water have become major foreign exchange earners. The coir substrate sector has specifically gained significant global recognition due to the increasing demand for sustainable growing media in modern horticulture and greenhouse agriculture.

At present, the European Union, the United States, the Middle East, East Asia, and Oceania remain key export destinations for Sri Lankan coconut products. However, there are immense, untapped opportunities in emerging markets including Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Africa, Latin America, and selected regions in South America where demand for plant-based, vegan, organic, and wellness-oriented products is rapidly increasing. Sri Lanka must strategically position itself to penetrate these growth markets through branding, innovation, market intelligence, and strong trade partnerships.

Moving forward, significant opportunities are available across the entire coconut value chain. In the forward linkages, exporters can focus on high-value consumer products including ready-to-drink beverages, nutraceuticals, coconut-based health foods, cosmetics, and eco-friendly consumer products. In the backward linkages, investments are needed in sustainable cultivation, mechanization, modern processing technologies, quality assurance systems, and farmer productivity enhancement. Consumer linkages can further be strengthened through digital marketing, traceability systems, certification standards, and premium branding strategies targeting health-conscious global consumers.

Innovation, sustainability, and value addition will be the defining pillars of the future coconut economy. Sri Lanka has the quality, expertise, and natural advantage required to become a globally recognized premium coconut product hub. Through strong collaboration between government institutions, exporters, researchers, and investors, the Sri Lankan coconut industry is well positioned to achieve even greater heights contributing significantly to national economic growth and rural livelihoods.

Supply Chain in Sri Lanka's Coconut Industry and Emerging Trends



Sri Lanka's coconut industry supply chain stretches from growers and collectors to processors, manufacturers, exporters, and international buyers. While the country has continued to build a reputation for high-value-added coconut exports, several structural gaps remain within the supply chain itself.

At the cultivation level, coconut production depends mainly on the traditional Coconut Triangle, which covers Kurunegala, Puttalam, and Gampaha. Smaller contributions come from secondary cultivation regions, supported by the Coconut Cultivation Board's (CCB) extension services.

Once coconuts are harvested, they typically move through collectors and intermediaries before reaching manufacturers and exporters. According to Coconut Development Authority (CDA) Chairman Shantha Ranathunga, the challenge is not the existence of middlemen itself, but rather how certain segments of the supply chain currently operate. He noted that while matured coconuts should ideally move from growers to factories within 30 to 45 days, some large-scale traders accumulate stock to resell at inflated prices. This practice limits the margins received by growers while driving up procurement costs for manufacturers. Hence, both ends of the supply chain face financial pressure.

To address this, the CDA has expanded its coconut auction platform, which directly connects growers with manufacturers. Currently, the auction system accounts for less than 2% of the total coconut trade. To scale this up, the Authority plans to shift the platform online, aiming to improve participation, increase price transparency, and minimize unnecessary intermediary activity.

Raw material shortages are another systemic bottleneck in the supply chain. According to the CDA, industrial processing capacity has expanded significantly, especially for higher-value-added products like coconut milk and coconut milk powder, yet the availability of raw nuts continues to limit production. This issue sits on top of seasonal yield fluctuations and climate variations.

Globally, maritime logistics disruptions have placed additional strain on the sector's supply chains, as the ongoing conflict in the Middle East has increased freight costs and extended transit times for exporters, especially those targeting European and American markets. Meanwhile, Sri Lankan exporters also increasingly face food safety, traceability, and sustainability requirements from international buyers.

For addressing these vulnerabilities improving national yields remains a top priority. The CCB aims to increase the average yield per tree through targeted fertilizer subsidies, expanded irrigation programmes, and improved agricultural practices.Long-term supply planning also relies on the expansion of the Northern Coconut Triangle.

Furthermore, digital transformation is becoming essential to improving coordination among growers, collectors, and manufacturers. At the processing level, the industry is moving toward higher-tier value addition, with manufacturers increasing investments in coconut milk and powder to capitalize on international demand.

Moving forward, securing a stable raw nut supply, improving supply chain transparency, and mitigating logistics disruptions will remain the main priorities for sustaining the industry's global competitiveness.

The Tree of Life Re-imagined: Leading Sri Lanka's Billion-Dollar Coconut Frontier

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தென்னைப் பயிர்ச்செய்கை சபை
Coconut Cultivation Board









Dr. Sunimal Jayakody

Chairman,
Coconut Cultivation Board (CCB)

The Sri Lankan coconut sector stands at a historic crossroads with year-on-year success reflecting the resilience of our growers, with the next target of USD 2.5 billion by 2030 requires a fundamental evolution: transforming a traditional plantation economy into a sophisticated, research-driven global hub.

Navigating the Hurdles of Success

Externally, we face rising logistics costs and increasingly stringent phytosanitary regulations. Internally, our greatest hurdle is the productivity gap of an aging plantation stock; nearly 20% of our palms are past their peak yield. To counter this, the Coconut Cultivation Board (CCB) has launched an aggressive national replanting effort and is strategically expanding into the second Coconut Triangle in the North and East to ensure long-term supply stability.

Next-Gen Cultivation and Climate Resilience

Climate change is no longer a distant threat but a daily operational reality. Erratic monsoons and rising temperatures have made traditional harvests volatile. In response, the CCB is prioritizing Next-Gen cultivation research. We are fast-tracking the distribution of climate-resilient hybrids engineered to thrive under heat stress. Furthermore, through advanced genomic mapping, we are identifying genetic markers to reduce the gestation period of new plantations, ensuring a faster return on investment and a more agile response to shifting weather patterns.

Decarbonizing the Supply Chain

As global markets move toward Net Zero, the carbon footprint of our exports is under intense scrutiny. We are addressing this by promoting regenerative agriculture—inter-cropping with pepper, coffee, and cinnamon—which transforms our plantations into massive carbon sinks. Beyond the farm gate, we are encouraging the adoption of renewable energy in processing plants to reduce the greenhouse gas (GHG) intensity of every ton of coconut product shipped from our shores.

Mitigating Industrial Pollution & The Circular Economy

Growth must not come at the cost of our natural resources. A key priority for the CCB is addressing environmental pollution within the processing sector, particularly regarding wastewater management in desiccated coconut and milk production. We are incentivizing the transition to zero-waste facilities through two main avenues:

1. **Effluent Treatment Innovation:** Implementing advanced filtration and recycling systems to ensure industrial by-products do not impact local water tables.
2. **Waste-to-Wealth:** Transforming former waste—such as shells and husks—into high-value exports like activated carbon and geotextiles. This eliminates landfill pressure while creating new revenue streams.

Digital Trust and Traceability

In 2026, transparency is the ultimate currency. Sri Lanka is implementing blockchain-based traceability, allowing global buyers to verify the origin, ethical sourcing, and pesticide-free status of their products via a simple QR code. By providing proof of a low-carbon, pollution-free journey from farm to table, we are building a premium brand identity rooted in trust.

The Path Forward

The future of the tree of life lies in high-tech, zero-waste processing and high-value derivatives. By aligning government policy, private investment, and the dedication of our farmers, we are ensuring that Sri Lanka remains the undisputed global capital of premium, sustainable coconut products.

Building a Sustainable Coconut Export Industry



Similar to any other sector, sustainability and compliance standards are becoming increasingly important within Sri Lanka's coconut industry. Exporters face stricter international market requirements, changing consumer expectations and growing pressure related to food safety, traceability and environmental management.

For exports, certifications and standards now play a major role in market access, especially for value-added coconut products. Certifications can verify that products meet international requirements related to food safety, quality management, traceability, environmental standards and production practices. For exporters, these certifications also support customs clearance processes, buyer confidence and access to premium international markets.

According to the Coconut Development Authority (CDA), many Sri Lankan companies and growers have already obtained internationally recognised certifications based on export market requirements. These include USDA Organic Certification for the United States market, EU Organic Certification for the European market, Japanese Agricultural Standard (JAS) certification for Japan, and other quality management standards linked to international buyer requirements.

Sri Lanka has additionally introduced mandatory quality standards for certain sectors within the industry. ISO 22000 certification, which focuses on food safety management systems, has been mandated for all coconut kernel manufacturers. For non-kernel sectors including activated carbon, fibre and coir pith or substrate manufacturing, Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) certification has been mandated, which focuses on maintaining consistent production quality, process controls and manufacturing conditions. The CDA is consistently encouraging manufacturers producing for export markets to continuously upgrade these certifications.

Food safety certifications such as Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) also remain important within the sector, particularly for edible coconut products including coconut oil, desiccated coconut and coconut milk products.

Sustainability-related certifications have also been adopted by the industry, as several exporters have obtained Fairtrade certification. Meanwhile, Rainforest Alliance certification, which serves a similar purpose and remains more visible within Sri Lanka's tea sector, is not yet widely adopted within the coconut sector. However, industry stakeholders note that sustainability-focused certifications continue gaining importance in many export markets.

Moreover, one of the sector's main sustainability concerns at present is maintaining a stable coconut supply while protecting long-term cultivation capacity. In response, several state-led programmes are currently being implemented. Main initiatives include the fertilizer subsidy programme and a coconut land rehabilitation programme, which focus on improving yields through proper nutrient application, irrigation support, fertilizer application and land productivity improvement measures. Authorities are also educating growers on water management, nutrient application and good agricultural practices to improve productivity and reduce wastage.

Another issue receiving attention is domestic coconut wastage. According to the CDA, awareness programmes promoting the efficient use of coconut milk, coconut milk powder and blenders, if properly practiced, could potentially return between 300 and 350 million nuts back into the industry annually.

Environmental and food safety concerns within the sector also extend to product quality management. The CDA has raised concerns regarding adulterated coconut oil entering the local market through the mixing of purified residual oils and used cooking oils with coconut oil. To address this, cabinet proposals requiring coconut oil to be bottled and sealed before entering the market have been prepared.

Alongside these concerns, global demand for coconut products continues to increase. This encourages Sri Lanka's coconut industry to gradually place more attention on sustainable production practices, food safety compliance, agricultural management and certification standards alongside export growth.

Story from the Cover Page





THE STORY OF THE CEYLON COCONUT

The coconut, revered as the Tree of Life, unfolds its story in Sri Lanka as a symbol of resilience and abundance. Its crystal-clear water becomes a prized natural drink, while the flesh is transformed into nourishing milk and oil cherished in kitchens and wellness industries. The husk is reborn as durable coir fiber, woven into ropes, mats, and eco-friendly crafts. Even the shell finds new life in charcoal and handicrafts, blending utility with artistry. Together, these creations weave The Story of The Ceylon Coconut, a tale of nature's gift endlessly reinvented into value-added treasures.

01. Traditional products:

Desiccated coconut, coconut oil, copra

Sources of Traditional Coconut Products

Copra



- **Definition:** Dried kernel (meat) of mature coconuts.
- **Source:** Mature coconuts harvested at 11–12 months old.
- **Production:**
  - **Sun drying:** Traditional, widely practiced.
  - **Smoke drying:** Adds preservation benefits.
  - **Kiln drying:** Faster, controlled drying.
- **Oil Content:** 63–70% oil by weight.
- **By-product:** Copra cake/meal (18–25% protein), used as livestock feed.

Coconut Oil



- Definition: Extracted oil from copra or fresh kernel.
- **Sources:**
  - **Copra-based oil:** Traditional pressing or solvent extraction.
  - **Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO):** Extracted directly from fresh kernel using wet or dry processes.
- **Types:**
  - Refined, Bleached, Deodorized (RBD) oil.
  - Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO) – nutrient-rich, unrefined.
- **Uses:** Cooking, cosmetics, health supplements.

Desiccated Coconut



- **Definition:** Finely grated, dried coconut kernel.
- **Source:** Mature coconut meat, carefully dehydrated.
- **Production Steps:**
  - Dehusking and shelling.
  - Washing, blanching, shredding.
  - Hot-air drying to reduce moisture to ~3%.
- **Uses:** Bakery, confectionery, desserts, snack bars.
- **Market Value:** High demand in plant-based food industries.

02. Value-added products:

Virgin coconut oil, coconut milk, coconut cream, coconut flour

Sources of Key Coconut Value-added Products

Virgin Coconut Oil



- **Source:** Fresh coconut meat (not copra).
- **Process:** Cold-pressed or wet extraction methods that retain natural aroma, flavor, and nutrients.
- **Yield:** About 13 coconuts are needed to produce 1 liter of oil.
- **Uses:** Cooking, skincare, nutraceuticals.

Coconut Milk



- **Source:** Freshly grated coconut meat mixed with water and pressed.
- **Process:** Extracted liquid is filtered; can be canned or powdered (spray-dried).
- **Uses:** Curries, soups, beverages, dairy-free alternatives.

Coconut Cream



- **Source:** Same as coconut milk but with less water, yielding a thicker consistency.
- **Process:** Extracted from finely grated coconut meat, filtered for richness.
- **Uses:** Desserts, sauces, vegan dairy substitute.

Coconut Flour



- **Source:** Defatted coconut meat left after oil extraction.
- **Process:** Dried and finely ground into flour.
- **Yield:** Around 30 coconuts needed for 1 kg of flour.
- **Uses:** Gluten-free baking, high-fiber diets, keto-friendly recipes.

Coconut Vinegar



- **Sources:** Coconut water: Extracted from mature coconuts, often enriched with sugar to boost fermentation; Coconut sap (also called toddy or tuba): Collected directly from the flower bud of the coconut palm.
  - Both sources contain natural sugars that can be converted into ethanol and then acetic acid.
- **Process:** Coconut water or sap is sweetened (12–20% sugar content); Pasteurization may be done to control microbes; Yeast is added; Fermentation lasts 5–7 days, producing ethanol.
- **Uses:** Culinary seasoning, pickling, health tonic, and preservative.

03. Emerging products:

Coconut water, coconut snacks, organic and vegan coconut-based products

Coconut Water



- **Source:** King coconuts and Kurumba
- **Process:** Extract the water inside the coconut with no added sugar or flavours
- **Uses:** Naturally electrolyte-rich, used for hydration.

Coconut Sugar



- **Source:** Coconut flower sap
- **Process:** collecting coconut flower sap, boiling it to evaporate water, and then crystallizing it into granules
- **Uses:** Natural sweetener, requires 9L sap for 1kg sugar.

04. Industrial products:

Coco peat, fiber, activated carbon

Coco Peat (Coir Pith)



- **Source:** Dust and fines from coconut husk after fiber extraction.
- **Process:** Husk is soaked in water to soften; Fiber is mechanically separated, leaving behind peat (pith); Pith is washed to remove salts, dried, and compressed into blocks.
- **Uses:** Soil conditioner, hydroponic medium, water retention aid.

Coir Fiber



- **Source:** Long fibers from coconut husk.
- **Process:** Husk retting (soaking in water for weeks) loosens fibers; Fibers are beaten,

combed, and dried; Graded into bristle fiber (long, stiff) and mattress fiber (short, flexible).

- **Uses:** Ropes, mats, brushes, mattresses, geotextiles.

Activated Carbon
(from Coconut Shells/Fibers)

- **Source:** Coconut shells or fibers.



- **Process:**
  - **Carbonization:** Heating shells/fibers at ~450 °C in limited oxygen to form char.
  - **Activation:** Further heating at ~700 °C with steam/air or chemical agents (e.g., KOH) to create high porosity.
  - **Characterization:** SEM, FT-IR, and iodine value tests confirm pore structure and adsorption capacity.
- **Uses:** Water and air purification, industrial filtration, energy storage.

Other Kernel Products

Poonac or Oil Cake is a by-product, resulting from the coconut oil industry and it contains very high levels of protein and is ideal for use as an animal feed.

Coconut butter is a food spread or paste made from coconut cream. It contains less fat amount compared to cow's milk butter.

Coconut Jam is a sweet, creamy spread made from coconut milk and sugar, perfect for bread or desserts.

Coconut Treacle is a thick, dark syrup derived from coconut sap, rich in caramel-like flavor.

Coconut Syrup is a golden, natural sweetener from coconut blossoms, often used as a healthier alternative to refined sugar.

Coconut Sugar is a granulated sweetener from coconut sap with a mild, earthy sweetness.

Coconut Arrack is a traditional Sri Lankan distilled spirit made from fermented coconut sap, known for its smooth, complex taste.

Fiber & Fiber Processed Products

Coir Fiber Pots are used as plant pots and made out of natural coconut fiber with or without natural rubber latex.

Twisted Fiber are mainly used for Car seats in Auto mobile industry.

Other Fiber products

Omat Fiber; Mattress Fiber; Bristle Fiber; Fiber Pith/Dust; Husk Chips; Coir Yarn; Coir Twine; Geo – Textiles; Moulded Coir Products; Rubberized Coir Products; Compressed Fiber Pith; Carpets, Mats & rugs; Grow Bags; Compressed Husk Chips; Brooms & Brushes; Tawashi Brushes

Coconut Shell

Coconut Shell Powder is used as a raw material for Activated Carbon industries.

Coconut Shell Charcoal is widely used as efficient industrial fuel and it's also used for laundries and Blacksmithing and goldsmiths where high rate of heat is required.

Activated carbon made of Coconut Shell Charcoal used for water filtration, air pollution control, chemical industry, pharmaceuticals industry and other industries including beauty care products.

Ornamental Coconut Products

Coconut Wood based Products

Coconut Shell based Products

Coconut Fiber based Products

Coconut Ekel based Products



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from Nature

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to nourish your body, inside and out.

Nature's Gift. Your Everyday Essential.

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High smoke point and rich flavor for everyday cooking.

Boosts Immunity
Contains lauric acid that helps support your body's natural defenses.

Healthy Heart
Rich in medium-chain triglycerides (MCTs) that support heart health.

Stronger Hair
Promotes healthy hair growth and reduces damage.

Glowing Skin
Deeply moisturizes and nourishes for soft, radiant skin.

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Activities of the Chamber





A GREAT BENEFIT FOR CHAMBER MEMBERS:

Expanding Global Partnerships

The National Chamber of Exporters (NCE) has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with ten leading overseas trade chambers, paving the way for a dynamic global platform that enables NCE members to explore bilateral trade opportunities. These partnerships aim to strengthen business relationships, encourage joint ventures, and boost trade between Sri Lanka and partner countries.

Key initiatives include organizing Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings during NCE delegations' visits to partner chambers abroad. Additionally, several overseas chambers have shown interest in visiting Sri Lanka with delegations to explore trade and investment opportunities with NCE members. These interactions provide a valuable chance for Sri Lankan exporters to network, showcase their products, and gain insights into international market trends.

NCE is dedicated to expanding its international collaborations, continuously working to establish more partnerships with other countries' leading trade chambers. These efforts promise increased market access, diverse business opportunities, and potential growth in bilateral trade. NCE encourages its members to actively engage in upcoming activities and capitalize on the benefits offered through this expanding network of global partnerships.

For further details, or to get in touch with these chambers please **contact:** +94114344661 or **email:** nce@nce.lk

Australia



Australia Sri Lanka Business Council

Sri Lanka and Australia Chamber of Commerce

UK



Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce

Brazil



Chamber of Commerce Brazil - Asia

USA



Global Chamber

Indonesia



Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADIN)

Italy



Italian Association of Foreign Trade (AICE)

South Korea



Hwaseong Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Qatar



Qatar Sri Lanka Business Council

South Africa



The South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry

China



The China General Chamber of Commerce

Beijing Haidian International Chamber of Commerce

Sri Lanka China Business Co-Operation Council

India



India Business Group (IBG)

Federation of Indian Export Organizations

UAE



Ethera Business LLC

Bangladesh



Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI)

Nepal



Nepal Chamber of Commerce

Nepal Sri Lanka Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Your gateway to explore trade, investments, cultural diversity and discover new business opportunities

Sri Lanka Expo 2027 is a premier international trade exhibition aimed at positioning Sri Lanka as a dynamic hub for trade, investment, and innovation in South Asia. Bringing together over 750 exhibitors and 1,500+ global buyers, investors, and industry leaders, the event showcases diverse sectors—from agriculture and industry to technology and tourism—while fostering business networking, knowledge sharing, and global partnerships.

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www.srilankaexpo.lk

NCE Expands Regional Export Engagement in North Western Province



The National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka (NCE) carried out a regional visit to Kurunegala on 15 May 2026 , a region that hosts over 200 registered exporters. The initiative brought together exporters, service providers, aspiring exporters, and regional enterprises through two business-to-business (B2B) meetings coordinated by the Industrial Services Bureau (ISB) and the Export Development Board (EDB). Kurunegala and the wider Wayamba Province remain key regional business centers, with the province accounting for an estimated 300 to 350 active exporters across the agriculture, manufacturing, and services sectors.

The visit highlighted the NCE's regional outreach efforts, which focus on improving connections between exporters and enterprises outside Colombo, while supporting smaller businesses pursuing entry into export markets and guidance on developing export-ready products.

The NCE delegation comprised 43 member exporters and service providers, along with four NCE staff members.

Coordinated by the ISB, the program commenced with a B2B meeting at Hotel Karmel in Kurunegala. Key dignitaries addressed the gathering, including the Honorable Governor of the North-Western Province, Mr. Tissa Kumarasiri; the Chief Secretary of the North-Western Province, Mrs. Deepika K. Gunaratne ; NCE President, Mr. Indhra Kaushal Rajapaksa; NEDA Chairman, Mr. Lakshman Abeysekara; and NCE Secretary General and CEO, Mr. Shiham Marikar.

35 enterprises from the region participated in the session, including suppliers, producers, exporters, and aspiring exporters. These enterprises represented a range of sectors, including agriculture; agro-based products such as coconut-related items; handicrafts; handloom and apparel; tea and spices; and industrial products.

Regional enterprises displayed their products through a table-to-table arrangement, allowing exporters and service providers to engage directly with producers and suppliers. This approach also enabled participating businesses to discuss supply capabilities, product standards, and business requirements linked to export markets.

The second B2B session coordinated by the EDB was organized at ASLIYA Kallista Restaurant & Café in Kurunegala. The gathering was addressed by the Deputy Director of the EDB Kurunegala, Ms. Chathurangi Nuwarapaksa, NCE President and NCE Secretary General and CEO.

Around 20 enterprises from the region, including exporters and aspiring exporters, participated in the program. Senior Executive Officers of the NCE, Mr. Susantha Rupathunga and Ms. Enuri Gurusinghe, also conducted an informative segment on the NCE's Aspiring Exporters membership category.

The session focused on practical needs related to entering export markets, industry engagement, and available support services for smaller enterprises. Participants were briefed on how businesses could engage with the NCE and gain access to export-related guidance, business networks, and industry connections.

Both B2B interactions created opportunities for exporters to identify possible supplier partnerships, while export service providers shared information related to logistics, compliance procedures, and export market requirements. Many of the participating enterprises were able to obtain practical guidance on improving product readiness and understanding the processes connected with entering export markets.

The regional visit focused considerable attention on aspiring exporters, many of whom participated in both programs to pursue better exposure to export procedures, market expectations, and business contacts.

Overall, the visit contributed toward improving regional market access by connecting enterprises from Kurunegala and the wider North-Western Province with exporters, industry representatives, and support institutions within a single platform. The interactions enabled by the visit also set the stage for future business connections, supplier relationships, and growing cooperation between regional enterprises and the export sector.



NCE Celebrates 40 Years, Marking its Continued Commitment as The Voice of The Exporter



The National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka marked four decades of service at its Annual General Meeting and Post-Business Forum on 27 March 2026 , an evening that showcased the NCE's commitment and resilience over the years.

The statutory Annual General Meeting opened the proceedings, with members gathering to elect the office bearers for the forthcoming term. Mr. Indhra Kaushal Rajapaksa was re-elected as President of the NCE, continuing his leadership into another year.

In addition to that, the Executive Committee for the upcoming term is as follows: Mr. Dilshan Rajapaksa- Vice President (VP), Mrs. Nilrukshi De Silva -Vice President (VP), Mr. Sami Bandara- Hony. Secretary, Mr. Charith Yalagala- Hony. Treasurer, Mr. Lakshan Algama- Hony. Asst. Treasurer, Mr. Farhath Amith- Hony. Asst. Secretary, Mrs. Thushari Weerakoon- Representative from the Council (RC), Mr. Edward Fernando- Representative from the Council (RC).



In the post-business forum, re-elected President Kaushal Rajapaksa acknowledged a year of notable change, in Sri Lanka's domestic political landscape and in the global trade environment.

He especially highlighted the Chamber's regional export development, noting that Sri Lanka's export capacity does not begin and end in Colombo.

> *"Our vision is that export growth must be broad as well as inclusive. By empowering regional enterprises, we not only increase national export volumes but also stimulate local employment and promote balanced economic development."*

Over the past year, the NCE worked to build linkages between regional suppliers and exporters with the aim of developing more inclusive and competitive supply chains. The Aspiring Exporters Programme continued to bring in startups and MSMEs, providing access to training, advisory support, and connections with financial institutions. The Chamber also organized delegations to different regions, signed several Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and expanded academic institutional partnerships, with a focus on product development, research, quality improvement, and value addition. Moreover, the NCE organized a number of job fairs to help connect exporters facing workforce shortages with suitable candidates.

In terms of strengthening international relations, the NCE maintained ties with approximately 20 overseas trade Chambers through signed MoUs , efforts geared towards opening market access and identifying bilateral trade opportunities.

Additionally, the Chamber continued to showcase its commitment towards the exporter community through continued engagement with the Ministry of Industries and the Export Development Board to ensure that exporter concerns were reflected at the national policy level.

Meanwhile, H.E. Semih Lütfü Turgut, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Sri Lanka, identified emerging opportunities in bilateral trade. Moreover, given Türkiye's customs union agreement with the European Union, Sri Lankan producers could consider establishing production in Türkiye to access EU markets more efficiently. The Ambassador also noted that governance and ethical practice have become a baseline expectation in international supply chains. Amidst pressures such as conflicts, protectionism, and shifting trade dynamics, he highlighted that trade remains a force for cooperation.



Moreover, Deputy Minister Hon. Chathuranga Abeysinghe, delivering the keynote address, recognized the resilience Sri Lankan exporters had shown through multiple crises.

He outlined the Government's immediate priorities, including ensuring uninterrupted energy supply for manufacturing and export operations while also acknowledging structural vulnerabilities, such as reliance on imported energy..



Central to his address was the announcement of a national tariff policy, specifically the gradual removal of para-tariffs from April onwards, a reform that would lower input costs for exporters, improve competitiveness, and support Sri Lanka's participation in multilateral trade agreements.

Access to finance and Government efforts to address it were also noted, especially to improve credit access for SMEs and startups. Product complexity was another area he addressed, where he outlined that the Government had allocated Rs. 1 billion for innovation commercialisation.

Labour force participation, currently among the lowest in the region, was flagged as a structural issue requiring joint action from both government and industry. He urged exporters to invest in backward integration, and to pay greater attention to traceability and ethical supply chains as international standards in these areas tighten.

Felicitation of Past Presidents

Strong, sustained leadership has been the driving force behind the NCE's enduring legacy. Marking that support, the evening honored the leaders who led the NCE across its four decades, where tokens of appreciation were presented to the past presidents.

The NCE extended special recognition to its Founder President and President Emeritus, the late Patrick Amarasinghe, who took the initiative for establishing the foundation on which the Chamber has grown, ensuring organised representation for the export community across the country.

Key Launches And Milestones

The evening also marked the formal launch of several initiatives by the Chamber.

The SLAB-endorsed Certificate of Ethical Trading was officially launched, which can give exporters a recognised credential in an area that has become a prerequisite in many global markets.The Chamber also unveiled an official 40th anniversary lapel pin, and launched the special 40th anniversary edition of The Sri Lankan Exporter magazine. The in-house quarterly publication covers export and trade-related content, serving as a knowledge source for Sri Lanka's export community. Rounding out the evening was the premiere of the NCE corporate video, a visual account of the Chamber's work and mission.

Forty Years Of The NCE and Looking Ahead

The NCE was established in 1986, at a time when Sri Lanka's export sector looked very different. Forty years on, the Chamber has grown into the recognised voice for exporters nationally, with an established track record in policy advocacy, trade facilitation, knowledge sharing, and international networking.The Chamber now comprises members across trade, representing leading exporters of all product and service sectors in Sri Lanka, from large to small export-oriented enterprises. As the voice of the exporter, the NCE's continued work and attention towards supply chain resilience, tariff reform, labour productivity, and ethical trade, stand as a testament to its strong commitment to the community.













NCE's Monthly Management Committee & Council Meetings

The Management Committee and Council Meetings were held for the April, May and June 2026, during which the export sector–specific issues were discussed in depth.

The Council Meeting in May was held at Mandarina Hotel on 21st May 2026, with the participation of over 50 council members. The First Secretary (Political and Economic), Australian High Commission, Mr. Xin Shi graced the occasion and shared information on opportunities for Sri Lankan exporters in Australia. He emphasized that Sri Lanka can strengthen its trade ties with Australia mainly in the following sectors: renewable energy, agribusiness and food processing, logistics, technology and innovation, apparel and sustainable manufacturing, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), and tourism.

The meetings further focused on several critical challenges currently affecting the exporter community mainly the depreciation of the rupee and subsequent impact on exports and businesses in Sri Lanka. Members engaged in constructive dialogue, exploring practical measures to address these pressing concerns and to enhance the resilience of Sri Lanka's export sector.



Meeting with the Deputy Minister of Industries regarding electronic and electrical products sector

The NCE members representing the electronic and electrical products sector recently held a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Industries to address pressing challenges within the industry. A key concern raised was the high costs associated with obtaining standards and certifications, which remain a significant barrier to competitiveness and growth. The stakeholders got an opportunity to highlight the impact these expenses have on exporters and manufacturers, emphasizing the need for more accessible and affordable regulatory processes.

The Deputy Minister responded positively to the concerns, acknowledging the importance of easing these burdens to support the sector's development. The NCE has committed to following up with the relevant authorities to ensure that practical solutions are implemented. This engagement marks a constructive step toward strengthening the industry's position both locally and internationally, while also fostering collaboration between policymakers and exporters.



Cinnamon Training Academy together with NCE proposes strategic initiatives at the Meeting with the Deputy Minister of Industries

The NCE facilitated a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Industries where the Cinnamon Training Academy (CTA), in collaboration with the Spice Council, presented several strategic initiatives. These proposals were designed to strengthen Sri Lanka's spice sector, focusing on enhancing skill development and ensuring the industry remains competitive in global markets. The discussion highlighted the importance of aligning training and industry standards to meet international demand.

The Deputy Minister welcomed the initiatives, recognizing their potential to uplift both the spice industry and national workforce capabilities. By integrating specialized training and sectoral development, the proposals aim to create long-term benefits for exporters and producers alike. The NCE will continue to engage with relevant authorities to ensure these strategies are implemented effectively, reinforcing Sri Lanka's position as a leader in the global spice trade.







NCE President at the launch of the National SME Strategic Framework

The NCE, represented by its President, participated in the launch of the landmark National SME Strategic Framework, a comprehensive plan designed to transform the SME sector into a powerful driver of economic growth. This framework introduces 11 strategic pillars, a 5-pronged outlook, and 3 implementation approaches, aiming to boost SME contributions to GDP from 52% to 80% and employment from 45% to over 50%.

Launch of the National SME Strategic Framework

The Ministry of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development unveiled the National SME Strategic Framework, branded as "SME Nexus," under the vision "A Thriving Nation – A Beautiful Life." The NCE President's presence at the launch underscored the private sector's commitment to supporting this initiative. SMEs currently account for 75% of registered businesses, contribute 52% of GDP, and employ 45% of the workforce. The framework seeks to remove structural barriers and enable SMEs to evolve from subsistence-level enterprises into high-growth, export-oriented businesses. Its five-pronged strategic outlook emphasizes transformational growth, integrated approaches, market orientation, entrepreneurial culture, and measurable outcomes. Meanwhile, the three implementation approaches—institutional strengthening, capability enhancement, and growth enablement—provide a structured pathway for execution.

Strategic Pillars and Impact

The framework's 11 strategic pillars include technology and digital enablement, institutional integration, service delivery structures, incubation and startup support, market development and value chain integration, business intelligence and research, recognition of ecosystem partners, relationship management, access to finance and growth funds, entrepreneurship education, and policy/regulatory reforms. These pillars are designed to create a coordinated ecosystem where SMEs can access digital tools, simplified registration processes, single-window service centers, and specialized financing. Importantly, the framework introduces a dedicated Growth Fund to improve credit readiness and support priority sectors. By fostering strong public–private partnerships, the initiative aims to triple Sri Lanka's economy to USD 300 billion, positioning SMEs as the backbone of national development. The NCE's involvement ensures exporters' voices are integrated into policy, strengthening the link between industry and government for sustainable growth.



Welcoming the Dawn of another Sinhala and Tamil New Year at NCE

With the radiant dawn of the Sinhala and Tamil New Year 2026, the NCE embraced the spirit of tradition, unity, and joy. The esteemed management committee members evoked blessings by lighting the traditional oil lamp and offered greetings for the new year for the staff of NCE and its members.

It was an occasion filled with warmth and camaraderie—where laughter mingled with tradition, and new bonds blossomed among staff and committee members. The event not only honored cultural heritage but also created a joyful space to share blessings, strengthen connections, and welcome new colleagues into the fold.

It was a true celebration of togetherness, respect, and the promise of prosperity in the year ahead.

NCE, the Trade and Export Ecosystem partner of the Sri Lanka FinTech Summit 2026

The National Chamber of Exporters (NCE) has been named the Trade and Export Ecosystem Partner for the Sri Lanka FinTech Summit 2026, bringing together Sri Lanka's leading export body and a key platform for financial technology innovation. Through this partnership, the summit will benefit from NCE's expertise in trade, helping connect digital financial solutions with the needs of exporters. The collaboration aims to enhance efficiency, support global market access, and promote innovation in areas like cross-border payments and trade finance. Overall, it seeks to strengthen Sri Lanka's export sector by integrating modern fintech solutions with traditional trade practices.



Sri Lanka Export Credit Insurance Corporation renews Strategic Partnership with NCE

Renewed strategic partnership with Sri Lanka Exporter Credit Insurance Corporation (SECIC) is a way forward in the right direction for NCE to support exporters in Sri Lanka and for our members and stakeholders facilitating market access, capacity development, and value-added services. A wide range of programs, events, and initiatives will be designed to empower exporters through SLECIC partnership providing a platform to SLECIC to deepen their engagement within the industry.

NCE awaits another exciting year with SLECIC in this strategic partnership renewal.



NCE proposes a strategic collaboration with EDB

To strengthen Sri Lanka's export ecosystem, NCE proposed a strategic collaboration with EDB (Export Development Board). In this proposed agenda, the key focus areas include to increase services and strengthen export partnerships. Following are the key focus areas in detail:

» **Regional Export Development**

Enhancing regional export development through joint NCE-EDB "One-stop" Centres

» **Export Services Hub**

Establishing an Export Services Hub to support market entry, compliance and branding

» **Joint ventures in Training**

Joint training and capacity-building programs for aspiring exporters and SMEs

» **Knowledge Sharing**

Share best practices and innovation through seminars and webinars with global exposure

» **Strategic Partnerships**

Collaboration for partnerships promoting industry engagements

This is a step forward in developing the next generation of exporters in Sri Lanka and driving sustainable export growth.

The proposal was submitted to EDB Chairman Mangala Wijesinghe by NCE President Kaushal Rajapaksa after a briefing at the EDB between the two parties.



Exploring Strategic Partnership with Junior Chamber International

The National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka had the privilege of hosting Junior Chamber International (JCI), National President Mr. Sandun Weerasinghe and International Vice President Mr. Kengo Suzuki from Japan at its Head Office on 22nd May 2026.

The meeting featured productive discussions on a proposed partnership MOU between NCE and JCI, as well as supplier sourcing opportunities for Mr. Suzuki who is a fourth-generation owner of a glove and safety wear manufacturing business in Japan. Several NCE members also participated in the discussions, contributing to a fruitful and engaging session.



NCE launches SLAB-endorsed Certificate of Ethical Trading

NCE has taken a landmark step by officially launching the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB)-endorsed Certificate of Ethical Trading (CET) at its 40th Anniversary special celebration and Annual General Meeting held in April, 2026. Originally introduced in 2019, the CET was designed to guide exporters in meeting rising global expectations around ethical sourcing, sustainability, labour practices, and environmental responsibility. With SLAB's endorsement, the CET now carries national accreditation, significantly boosting its credibility and international recognition. This milestone strengthens the reputation of Sri Lankan exporters in global markets, aligning them with the growing demand for transparency and ethical trade practices.



SLIIT and NCE in dialogue to empower the next generation of Export Professionals

The NCE team had a productive and successful meeting with representatives of the Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT) to explore opportunities for collaboration in conducting study programmes related to trade, with a particular focus on exports.

The discussions centred on establishing a strategic partnership to empower students, youth, and professionals engaged in export-oriented enterprises through upskilling, capacity building, and professional development initiatives.

Both parties expressed strong interest in working together to enhance knowledge, competencies, and industry readiness, thereby contributing to the growth and competitiveness of Sri Lanka's export sector.

We look forward to building a meaningful partnership that will help develop the next generation of export professionals and strengthen the human capital required for the nation's export-driven economic growth.



Meeting with the newly appointed Director General of Commerce

The NCE team met with the newly appointed Director General of Commerce, Mr. Somasena Mahadiluwewa. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Charitha Yattogoda, Director of Commerce and Head of Trade Promotion.

The discussion focused on trade promotion initiatives and several sector-specific concerns affecting exporters. It was a productive meeting, during which both parties explored ways to strengthen support for exporters, facilitate business linkages, and enhance market access opportunities. The meeting concluded on a positive note, with a mutual commitment to continued collaboration in advancing Sri Lanka's export sector and promoting sustainable export growth.



Dialogue for Strategic Future Partnerships with Abans PLC

The NCE team met with Dr. Saroshi Dubash, Group Director of Abans PLC, and Zev Pestonjee of Cleantech (Pvt) Ltd., together with their teams, to hold a constructive dialogue for future strategic partnerships.

At the heart of the discussion was a shared vision: expanding international market access for Sri Lankan-manufactured consumer electrical products and elevating the global profile of Sri Lankan brands. With local industries continuing to innovate and diversify, the need to open new pathways into international markets has become more pressing than ever.

The NCE reaffirmed its commitment to this mission, emphasizing its role in trade facilitation, building international partnerships, organizing business delegations, and creating opportunities for market entry. By championing these initiatives, the Chamber seeks to empower Sri Lankan exporters to compete confidently on the world stage and secure lasting success for homegrown brands.



Introducing the NCE Sectoral Heads

Further to our ongoing efforts to strengthen engagement with our members and enhance visibility of our leadership structure, we at NCE initiated a campaign to create awareness on the Sectoral Heads nominated by the NCE Council. Thus far NCE had been featuring the Sectoral Heads in social media promoting their contribution to their respective sectors and export sector at large.

These Sectoral Heads are Council Members representing their respective industries, and they are expected to actively bring forward sector-specific issues and insights during Council meetings. It is therefore important that we position them prominently and communicate their roles to the wider membership.

There are 23 sectors that include the Flori Culture & Horticulture Products; Chemical & Mineral Based Products; Aquatic Plants & Ornamental Fish Products; Alcohol & Alcohol Based Products; Recycle Products; Printing & Packaging Products; Coconut & Coconut Based Products; Footwear & Leather Products; Confectionery & Beverage Products; ICT & Business Process Outsourcing Sector related services; Light/Heavy Engineering Products; Business & Professional Services Exports Sector; and Tea & Tea Based Products.

NCE discusses strategic pathways to improve these sectors with the leadership of the sectoral heads while finding solutions to issues emerging in the export sector in general.


A F M FAROOK
Chief Operating Officer, CeyQuartz MBI Pvt Ltd
SECTORAL HEAD
Other Mineral based Products
Driving mineral-based product innovation, sustainable export practices, value addition, quality improvement, and global market competitiveness through NCE sector leadership.


BUDDIKA MALLAWAARACHCHI
Manager – Regulatory & Export Administration, International Distillers Ltd
SECTORAL HEAD
Alcohol and Alcohol Based Products
Driving the growth of Sri Lanka's alcohol and alcohol-based products sector through international standards compliance, export facilitation, policy engagement, industry collaboration, and enhanced global market competitiveness through NCE sector leadership.


CHINTHAKA WEGAPITIYA
Managing Director and CEO, LAUGFS Corporation (Rubber) Limited
SECTORAL HEAD
Rubber Tyres and Accessories
Driving rubber tyre and accessories export sector growth, international market expansion, strategic leadership, export competitiveness, and industry collaboration through NCE sector leadership.


DAWN S. AUSTIN
Managing Director, Nidro Supply (Pvt) Ltd
SECTORAL HEAD
Fresh & Processed Food Products
Driving fresh and processed food export growth, innovative food processing and packaging, international quality standards, market diversification, value addition, and global competitiveness through NCE.


DAYANGANI PERERA
General Manager- International Sales, Ceylon Biscuits Limited
SECTORAL HEAD
Confectionery Products
Driving confectionery product standards, export best practices, industry innovation, policy engagement, and global competitiveness through NCE sector leadership.


DILSHAN RAJAPAKSA
Director, D. Samson Industries (Pvt) Ltd
SECTORAL HEAD
Footwear and Leather Products
Driving footwear and leather products sector growth, export-oriented strategies, policy engagement, and global market competitiveness through NCE sector leadership.


EDWARD FERNANDO
Managing Director, Green Keepers (Pvt) Ltd
SECTORAL HEAD
Recycle Products
As Sectoral Head, leveraging Green Keepers, national and international award-winning experience to lead the sector of NCE membership in developing domestic infrastructure that turns high-volume waste into valuable local industrial inputs, export excess to capture growing global demand.


GAMINI SAPARAMADU
Founder Chairman, Kent Holdings (Pvt) Ltd.
SECTORAL HEAD
Wood Based Packaging for Value Addition
Driving sustainable wood and wood-based Packaging innovation, modern production practices, value addition, quality enhancement, and global market competitiveness through NCE sector leadership.


HEMALI BANDARA
Director, TexStyle Lanka Exports (Pvt) Ltd
SECTORAL HEAD
Garments and Textiles
Driving garments and textiles sector growth, export-oriented manufacturing strategies, policy advocacy, sustainability initiatives, and global market expansion through NCE sector leadership.


THUSHARI WEERAKOON
Managing Director, Ramya Horticulture (Pvt) Ltd
SECTORAL HEAD
Floriculture and Horticulture Products
Driving the advancement of Sri Lanka's floriculture and horticulture sector, championing high-quality exports, strengthening global market trust, fostering sustainable innovation, and enhancing competitiveness while supporting local growers.


JEEWAKA P. KARUNARATNE
Director, Imperial Tea Exports (Pvt) Ltd
SECTORAL HEAD
Tea & Tea Based Products
Driving growth in Sri Lanka's tea and tea-based products sector through value-added innovation, international quality standards, export market diversification, and enhanced global competitiveness under NCE sector leadership.


LAKSHAN ALGAMA PERERA
Director
SECTORAL HEAD
Light/Heavy Engineering Products
"Driving engineering sector growth, advanced engineering solutions, export competitiveness, industry collaboration, innovation, and global market expansion through NCE sector leadership."


MANO SEKARAM
Founder and Chairman, 99X Technology
SECTORAL HEAD
ICT / BPO & Related Services
Driving technology, innovation, business process excellence, and export competitiveness through NCE sector leadership.
The National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka


NILMINI KUMARI FERNANDO
Chairperson, Neil Fernando & Co Pvt Ltd
SECTORAL HEAD
Boat & Ship Building, and Repair Services
Driving boat building and ship repair services sector growth, export-oriented strategies, policy engagement, and global market competitiveness through NCE sector leadership.
The National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka


PRASAD VITHANAGE
Managing Director, Tradlanka Agricultural Enterprises (Pvt) Ltd
SECTORAL HEAD
Fresh & Processed Agricultural Export Crops
Driving Fresh & Processed Agricultural Export Crops sector growth, export-oriented strategies, policy engagement, and global market competitiveness through NCE sector leadership.
The National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka


RUPIKA NAVARATNA
Assistant General Manager – Global Operations, Macksons Holdings
SECTORAL HEAD
Chemicals & Minerals Based Products
Driving growth in Sri Lanka's chemicals and minerals sector through global market expansion, international trade operations, supply chain development, policy engagement, and strengthening export competitiveness through NCE sector leadership.
The National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka


SANJEEWA WEERAKKODI
Assistant General Manager Samson International PLC
SECTORAL HEAD
Rubber and Rubber Products Sector
Driving rubber products sector growth, export-oriented strategies, policy engagement, global market expansion, and international competitiveness through NCE sector leadership.
The National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka


DR. SANJEEWA WICKRAMARATNE
Senior Specialist, Lanka Hydraulic Institute Ltd
SECTORAL HEAD
Business & Professional Services Exports Sector
Driving business & professional services export growth, knowledge-based export strategies, policy engagement, innovation, and global market competitiveness through NCE sector leadership.
The National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka


THEVAN SATHEESWARAN
Managing Director, Variosystems Pvt Ltd
SECTORAL HEAD
Electrical and Electronics Products
Driving electrical and electronics manufacturing sector growth, innovation-led export development, international quality standards, global market expansion, and industry competitiveness through NCE sector leadership.
The National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka


THIDEEMA PERERA
General Manager - Sales & Marketing, Rileys (Pvt) Ltd
SECTORAL HEAD
Coconut & Coconut Based Products
Driving coconut and coconut-based product export growth, global market expansion, sustainable practices, value addition, and international competitiveness through strategic sales and marketing leadership.


UPEKA BOLONGHE
Head of Bancassurance and Partnerships, Fairfirst Insurance Limited
SECTORAL HEAD
Business and Professional Services Exports
Driving insurance sector growth, strategic industry development, innovation, customer excellence, and market competitiveness through NCE sector leadership.
The National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka


UDAYA N. SIRISENA
Group Director/Chief Logistics Officer,
SECTORAL HEAD
Printing & Packaging Products
Driving the advancement of the printing and packaging products sector, strengthening industry partnerships, promoting innovative solutions that meet global standards, enhancing export potential, and improving global market competitiveness through strategic leadership.
The National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka


VIBHU PERERA
Chairman,
Lumbini Aquaria International (Pvt) Ltd
SECTORAL HEAD
Aquatic Plants & Ornamental Fish
Driving growth in the Aquatic Plants & Ornamental Fish sector through strategic leadership, global market alignment, stakeholder collaboration, sustainable industry practices, innovation, and enhanced export competitiveness under NCE sector leadership.
The National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka



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sales@warnaexporters.com | www.warnaexporters.com

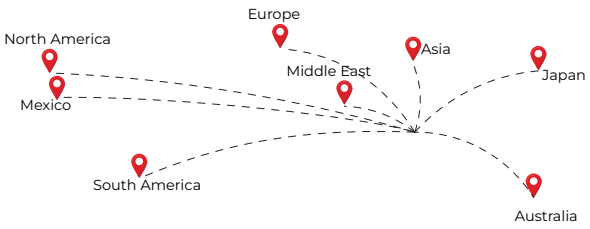
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Success Stories



Empowering Sri Lankan Exporters Through Risk Protection and Global Trade Confidence



Sri Lanka's export sector operates in an increasingly competitive and uncertain global environment where businesses must navigate buyer defaults, political instability, currency fluctuations, and changing trade dynamics. In this landscape, risk management is no longer optional, it is a strategic necessity. As the national export credit insurance and guarantee agency in Sri Lanka, the Sri Lanka Export Credit Insurance Corporation (SLECIC), which operates under the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, continues to play a key role in strengthening exporter confidence and supporting sustainable export growth.

Established with the objective of facilitating export trade, SLECIC provides protection and financial security to exporters, banks, and investors through a range of tailored insurance and guarantee solutions. Over the years, the Corporation has evolved beyond a traditional insurer into a strategic partner for exporters, helping businesses expand into new markets with greater confidence.

SLECIC's portfolio includes export credit insurance, pre-shipment and post-shipment facilities, bank guarantee support, and pre-departure loan guarantee facilities for migrants who go for foreign employment. All the export credit related solutions are designed to mitigate risks associated with non-payment by foreign buyers, commercial uncertainties, and political risks that may arise in international transactions. By reducing exposure to such risks, exporters are better positioned to focus on market expansion, buyer acquisition, and long-term business development.

In addition to risk mitigation, SLECIC actively contributes towards improving Sri Lanka's export competitiveness. The Corporation works closely with exporters across diverse sectors including apparel, tea, rubber-based products, ICT, logistics, and value-added manufacturing industries. Through strategic collaborations with financial institutions and trade-related stakeholders, SLECIC supports access to finance and encourages export-driven entrepreneurship.

SLECIC also extends its support through specialized financial facilitation mechanisms such as the APARA Credit Guarantee Facility , which is designed to assist Sri Lankan migrant workers by providing a credit guarantee for pre-departure expenses including visa fees, airfare, and related costs. This initiative enables access to bank financing by reducing risk for lending institutions, thereby easing the financial burden on workers while supporting safe and structured overseas employment opportunities.

As global trade continues to evolve, Sri Lankan exporters are increasingly required to adapt to emerging market trends, digital transformation, and heightened buyer expectations. SLECIC remains committed to supporting this transition by continuously improving its services and strengthening engagement with the export community.

The Corporation's vision is aligned with the broader national objective of increasing foreign exchange earnings and positioning Sri Lanka as a resilient and competitive export nation. With a strong foundation built on trust, reliability, and service excellence, SLECIC continues to empower exporters to explore new opportunities while managing international trade with confidence.

As Sri Lanka moves forward in rebuilding and expanding its economy, institutions that strengthen business confidence will remain essential. SLECIC stands ready to support Sri Lankan exporters in reaching global markets securely, sustainably, and confidently.

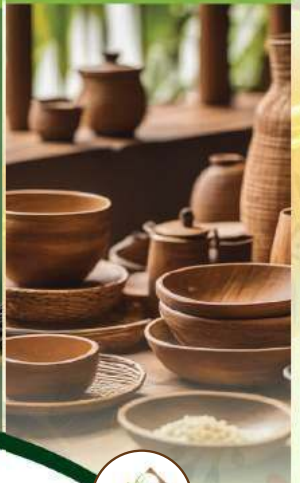
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Made in Sri Lanka

Green Space Holdings

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Natural Garden Supplies



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Green Space Lanka (Pvt) LTD

Made in Sri Lanka

Walahapitiya Kumbura, Madampe Road,
Pahala Walahapitiya, Nattandiya 61190, Sri Lanka.

Green Space International Private Limited: Building a Market From Scratch

Green Space International found its footing through niche strategies. The company started operations in early 2020 with Rs. 430,000 borrowed from the founder's family, with no bank financing and a pandemic on the way. What followed in the five years since is a business that now operates 3 factories, exports to more than 20 countries, and continues to grow. The company's awards highlight its successful journey thus far: securing the Bronze Award in 2024 followed by the Gold Award and the Best Ethically Trading Exporter title in 2025, within the medium category of the Coconut and Coconut Product Sector, while Green Space Lanka won the Silver Award in the same category for 2025, at the National Chamber of Exporters (NCE) Export Awards.





The turning point was identifying the exotic pet market as a niche that nobody in Sri Lanka was properly serving, specifically the demand for bedding substrates for bioactive habitats like vivariums and terrariums, with research revealing that the category was far larger than what was currently being shipped. Today, Green Space exports more than 150 products within the exotic pet category alone, including natural decor items like leaves and pods that no other Sri Lankan company was supplying. Less competition in the niche meant stronger bargaining power, allowing the company to grow even with the financial constraints of its early years.

While exotic pet supplies opened the door, the company did not stop there, continuing to explore and expand through product range diversification, market diversification, and geographic diversification. The product portfolio includes natural garden supplies, hydroponic substrates, home decor and appliances, and industrial coir fibre products, with the company now present in the USA, Canada, the UK, France, Germany, and Japan, altogether more than 20 markets. As Chairman and Managing Director Namal Jayasekara put it: "We create the market."



They also took a strategic approach to buyers. Rather than simply competing for established large importers, Green Space directly approaches second- and third-tier buyers and converts them into direct importers.



Meanwhile, sustainability was built into the business from the very beginning, as Green Space operates on a people, planet, profit framework. As an eco-friendly company, it also holds a Certificate of Ethical Trading from the NCE and a GMP certification. Additionally, the company runs several community programs, such as the Green Space Academy to train university students with export ambitions, the Green Space Launchlab to support other Sri Lankan exporters, and several leadership programs. Moreover, approximately 2,000 stakeholders are directly and indirectly involved across the supply chain, including through the company's Grow Community initiative, which brings low-income groups in Sri Lanka into the supply chain for natural materials.

One of the key challenges for Green Space is the Middle East shipping crisis, which has pushed freight rates higher and increased operating costs across the board. However, Green Space has managed this in part because more than 70% of its products go directly to end users rather than intermediaries, which gives the company enough margin flexibility to absorb some of the pressure.

According to Jayasekara, the company's strength and stability actually come from the entire team and the supplier network they have built across the country.



Pioneering Transparency:

Senikma Holdings' Journey to Redefining Sri Lanka's Coconut Exports



In 2013, Senikma Holdings (Pvt) Ltd began its journey with a simple yet ambitious vision to create value in Sri Lanka's coconut industry by delivering high-quality products to the global market. Starting from modest beginnings, the company has evolved into one of the country's leading desiccated coconut exporters, driven by innovation, resilience, and a clear commitment to quality and authenticity.

From the outset, Senikma Holdings focused on building a strong operational foundation. Entering a highly competitive export sector, the company invested in modern processing capabilities and rigorous quality control systems to meet international standards. This early emphasis on consistency and compliance enabled Senikma to gain the trust of overseas buyers and gradually expand its export footprint.



Ms. Nayana Ranatunga

Founder CEO of Senikma Holdings (Pvt) Ltd

Over the past decade, the company's growth has been marked by strategic



thinking and adaptability. What distinguishes Senikma Holdings is not just its scale, but its forward-looking approach to brand positioning. Rather than operating solely as a commodity exporter, the company has steadily transitioned into a value-driven enterprise, focusing on authenticity, traceability, and global consumer trust.

A key milestone in this transformation has been the establishment of overseas entities, most notably Senikma Natural Foods UK Ltd, founded in 2023. This move represents a deliberate strategy to be closer to end markets, enhance brand visibility, and build direct relationships with consumers and distributors. By creating a presence in the United Kingdom, Senikma has positioned itself not merely as an exporter, but as a global brand in the natural foods space.

This international expansion has also provided the company with greater control over its marketing and distribution channels. Through its UK-based operations, Senikma is able to better communicate its brand story, emphasizing its Sri Lankan heritage, commitment to sustainability, and dedication to delivering genuinely organic products. This dual-structure model leveraging production expertise in Sri Lanka and market access in the UK has become a cornerstone of its brand positioning strategy.

At the heart of Senikma Holdings' differentiation is its pioneering use of blockchain technology to ensure traceability across its supply chain. In an era where consumers are increasingly conscious about the origin and authenticity of food, the company has taken a bold step to introduce blockchain-enabled traceability within Sri Lanka's coconut industry. This initiative enhances transparency by allowing every stage of the product journey — from farm to final export to be securely recorded and verified.

By adopting blockchain, Senikma aims to build a system of trust that benefits both producers and consumers. Farmers become integral partners in a transparent value chain, while international buyers gain confidence in the integrity of the products they purchase. This model not only reinforces the company's commitment to delivering genuinely organic products but also sets a new benchmark for accountability in the sector.

The integration of technology with traditional agriculture reflects Senikma's broader vision: to modernize the coconut industry while preserving its core strengths. It also aligns with global trends toward digital traceability and ethical sourcing, positioning the company at the forefront of innovation in agro-exports.

Senikma's steady rise has not gone unnoticed. Over the years, the company has earned continued recognition at both the National Chamber of Exporters (NCE) Awards and the prestigious Presidential Export Awards, two of Sri Lanka's most respected platforms for celebrating excellence in international trade. These accolades are a testament not only to the company's strong export performance, but also to its unwavering commitment to quality, innovation, and its meaningful contribution to the national economy.

Achieving a place within the top five exporters in the country is a testament to its consistent performance, strong leadership, and ability to adapt to changing market dynamics.

Yet, the company's journey is far from complete. Looking ahead, Senikma aims to further strengthen its global presence, expand its product range, and deepen its focus on sustainability and technology-driven solutions. Its commitment to blockchain traceability represents not just a technological upgrade, but a broader mission to reshape how agricultural products are produced, verified, and consumed.

Senikma Holdings exemplifies how vision, innovation, and strategic expansion can transform a local enterprise into a global contender. By combining operational excellence with forward-thinking initiatives such as overseas market integration and blockchain-enabled transparency, the company is setting a new standard for Sri Lanka's agro-export sector, one built on trust, authenticity, and sustainable growth.

GROUP HOLDING COMPANY

The Wardena Venture Story

How a Sri Lankan visionary and a team of world-class professionals built a coconut empire that now feeds four decades of global demand — and is just getting started.

Wardena Venture Holdings (Pvt) Ltd is an emerging, diversified Sri Lankan conglomerate, a business built over more than **35 years** by prolific entrepreneur and Chairman **Mr. Ashoka Siriwardena**. His vision is as clear today as it was at the outset: to take high-quality Sri Lankan products to the world, and to bring world-class products back to Sri Lanka, enriching the nation and its people. The group spans food and beverage, wellness, cosmetics, fibre and coir products, consumer goods, construction materials, and engineering services. This is a portfolio that reflects both breadth of ambition and depth of expertise.

The group is led by **Group Managing Director Mr. Praveen Siriwardena** and a board of senior directors spanning HR, operations, and finance, each bringing multinational experience to a proud Sri Lankan enterprise. Wardena Venture Holdings today empowers over 1,000 people directly and 10,000 indirectly across its business ecosystem, while serving 123 overseas clients across multiple sectors. Sustainability, ethical business conduct, and gender equality are operating principles, not aspirations — reflected in the group's 12 industry awards and its commitment to social enrichment programmes that support the communities in which it operates. Its two flagship export companies, Wichy Plantation and Eco Trends, together represent Sri Lanka's most complete vertically integrated coconut value chain.

WICHY COCONUT

WICHY PLANTATION COMPANY (PVT) LTD

Est. 1984 | Coconut products

Pioneer, Processor, World Supplier

Forty years ago, Wichy Plantation wrote the first chapter in Sri Lanka's industrial coconut story. That story is still being written — and the chapters keep getting bolder.

In **1984**, Wichy Plantation became a **pioneer in the manufacture and processing of coconut milk in cans** — one of South Asia's earliest industrial processors to bring this product to global standards. Four decades on, that pioneering spirit remains the company's defining characteristic.

Today, Wichy processes over **150,000 coconuts every single day**, delivering a diversified portfolio across Europe, North America, Asia, and the Middle East: Creamed Coconut, Coconut Milk, Condensed Milk, Whipping Cream, Coconut Aminos, Coconut Syrup, Beverages, Desiccated Coconut, Coconut Cream, Coconut Flour, Coconut Oil, and expanding value-added specialties.





South Asia's First Tetra Recart® Facility

In 2024, Wichy commissioned Sri Lanka's and **South Asia's first Tetra Recart® facility dedicated to coconut products:** the world's most advanced retort carton packaging technology, eliminating refrigeration requirements and delivering a significantly lower carbon footprint than traditional cans. This state-of-the-art facility is fully open for private label and OEM manufacturing — inviting global brands and retailers to bring their coconut product vision to market, backed by South Asia's most advanced processing infrastructure.







CERTIFICATIONS

USDA ORGANIC · EU Non-EU Agriculture · FAIRTRADE · JAS Control Union Certifications · IFS Food · Naturland · BRCGS · BSCI

AWARDS



★ **Gold Award — Extra Large: Coconut & Coconut Products**

NCE Export Awards — highest sectoral honour in the Extra Large coconut products category.



★ **Overall Outstanding Exporter — Runner-Up**

NCE Export Awards — recognising exceptional performance across all of Sri Lanka's export economy.

AT A GLANCE

1984	150K+	12+
Founded	Coconuts/day	Product lines

Private Label & OEM — Open for Partnership

Four decades of expertise. South Asia's most advanced Tetra Recart® facility. Eight international certifications. Your coconut product, ready for market.

ECO TRENDS (PVT) LTD

Est. 2021 | Coir products

COIR PRODUCTS | ORGANIC PROCESSING | ETHICAL TRADING

The Coconut's Second Story

Every coconut has two stories. Wichy Plantation tells the first. Eco Trends exists to tell the second — and to tell it brilliantly.

When Eco Trends (Pvt) Ltd was founded in **2021** as a strategic step in **the backward integration of Wichy Plantation**, it was built on one of manufacturing's most powerful convictions: that the companies which will lead in a resource-constrained world are those that waste nothing. Where Wichy transforms the coconut kernel into premium food products, Eco Trends transforms the **coconut husk** — the rough fibrous outer shell that most processors discard — into a rich portfolio of high-value, sustainable coir products for global markets.






Operating its **own purpose-built, vertically integrated facility**, Eco Trends manages the complete coir value chain in-house: organic husk receiving, controlled aerobic retting, mechanical defibring, organic washing, precision drying, and finished product manufacturing — every stage under one roof, ensuring complete traceability, consistent quality, and the organic credentials demanded by premium international buyers.




The product portfolio covers the full spectrum of **value-added coir applications:** Coir Substrates, Horticultural Products, Coir Pots, Weed Mats, Bark Guards, Coco Poles, Coir Pet Products, Coir Scraper Mats, Coir Twine, Erosion Control Products, Grow Bags, Coir Logs, and many more — manufactured to the specifications of customers across Europe, North America, Japan, and Australia.



> **"We don't process what others discard — we turn the coconut's second story into Sri Lanka's next great export chapter."**

In the **2025–26 financial year**, Eco Trends crossed a landmark milestone that few companies reach in their first four years: **annual exports exceeding Rs. 1 billion** — a testament to the quality of its manufacturing, the strength of its customer relationships, and the surging global appetite for certified, sustainably sourced Sri Lankan coir products, driven by the worldwide shift away from peat-based growing media.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION



★ **Gold Award — Large: Coconut & Coconut Products (2025)**

NCE Export Awards 2025 — Gold honour in the Large category for coconut and coir products.



★ **Best Ethical Trading Exporter — Medium (2024)**

NCE Export Awards 2024 — recognising fair trade practices, responsible sourcing and ethical conduct across the international supply chain.

AT A GLANCE

2021	Rs.1Bn	Gold	2024
Founded	FY 2025–26 exports	NCE Large Coir 2025	Best Ethical Trader

THE GROUP

Wardena Venture Holdings

Owned by **Mr. Asoka Sriwardena** and led by a management team of professionals with multinational food, trade, and sustainability experience, Wardena Venture Holdings controls two world-class export businesses that together represent Sri Lanka's most complete coconut value chain.

Wichy Plantation Co. (Pvt) Ltd | Eco Trends (Pvt) Ltd

Wichy Plantation Company (Pvt) Ltd

- ✓ Coconut products ✓ Private label
- ✓ OEM ✓ Tetra Recart®
- www.wichy.com
- info@wichy.com

Eco Trends (Pvt) Ltd

- ✓ Coir products ✓ Organic processing
- ✓ Ethical trading
- ecotrends.lk
- marketing@ecotrends.lk

Wardena Venture Holdings

- 260 Nawala Road, Sri Lanka
- wardenaholdings.com
- +94 11 280 5361

Cultivating a Greener Future Through Sustainable Innovation and Global Excellence



THUSELCO Holdings has emerged as one of Sri Lanka's inspiring success stories in the coconut and coconut-related export industry, transforming coconut waste into world-class agricultural solutions for global markets.

Established in 2018 in a modest rented facility with only 30 employees and a monthly production capacity of five export containers, the company has rapidly evolved into a globally recognized manufacturer of premium quality coconut substrate products. Today, THUSELCO operates from its own modern, state-of-the-art manufacturing facility exceeding 25,000 square feet, supported by advanced production systems and efficient processing operations.

The company currently exports nearly 350–400 containers annually to international markets including Australia, Mexico, Canada, Germany, Turkey, the Middle East, and several emerging agricultural regions worldwide. With an annual turnover exceeding LKR 1 billion, equivalent to nearly USD 3 million, THUSELCO continues to make a valuable contribution to Sri Lanka's export economy while generating 200–300 direct employment opportunities and supporting more than 500 indirect jobs connected to the coconut, logistics, and agricultural sectors.

THUSELCO specializes in manufacturing premium quality coconut substrate solutions designed for greenhouse cultivation, hydroponic farming, nurseries, and sustainable







agriculture. THUSELCO's diversified product portfolio includes Growbags, Open Top Bags, Grow Discs, Grow Cubes, and Coir Briquettes used for cultivating tomatoes, cucumbers, bell peppers, eggplants, strawberries, herbs, gerbera, orchids, sunflowers, vegetables, fruits, and cut flowers.

The company has gained strong recognition for its environmentally sustainable and biodegradable innovations. Through advanced washing, screening, buffering, drying, and compression technologies, THUSELCO converts natural coconut husks into high-performance growing media that support cleaner and greener agricultural practices worldwide. These substrates provide excellent water retention, aeration, and root development characteristics essential for modern professional cultivation systems.

Further strengthening its international reputation, THUSELCO has achieved ISO 9001 – Quality Management Systems , Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) Certification, and Organic Material Review Institution (OMRI) certifications, demonstrating its commitment to superior quality standards, environmental responsibility, and sustainable manufacturing excellence.

The Visionary Leadership

The driving force behind the company's success is its Founder and Managing Director, Mr. Thusitha Siriwardene, a first-Class graduate in Accountancy from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and an Associate Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka. Mr. Siriwardene has been awarded the prestigious Dr. Patric Mendis Award and ACCA Gold Medal for the most outstanding achievement in academic and extra-curricular activities by the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.



In recognition of his entrepreneurial achievements and contribution to Sri Lanka's export sector, he was honored with the prestigious "Best Entrepreneur Award" at the 44th National Conference of Chartered Accountants organized by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka.

Thuselco Team

Academically qualified persons, from in and around the region have been closely scrutinized and selected to form the staff at THUSELCO. Professionally skilled human resources have also been recruited to support the management process. The workers, who are engaged at the production line, are specially trained through an extensive training program and workshops, to perform their services effectively with productivity and efficiency.



As a group consisting of skilled professionals, the THUSELCO team is fully geared with knowledge and know-how, in the field of Coir substrate production and works with sheer commitment and responsibility, with the fullest dedication around the clock, to reach the corporate goals of the organization.

Rising Through Challenges and Expanding Toward a Sustainable Future

The growth of THUSELCO Holdings was achieved during one of the most challenging economic periods in recent history. Despite the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, global shipping disruptions, economic instability, and natural disasters, the company demonstrated remarkable resilience by continuously expanding its international customer network and production capacity.

As global agriculture increasingly moves toward sustainable, biodegradable, and soil-free cultivation systems, THUSELCO continues to invest in innovation, research, production technology, and environmentally responsible manufacturing processes. The company is currently expanding its raw material processing capabilities through the development of modern drying yards, professional drying systems, coco peat fiber processing facilities, and enlarged production operations to meet growing international demand.

In addition to industrial expansion, THUSELCO is also exploring fresh and organic farming ventures using company-owned agricultural lands to develop sustainable farming solutions for both local and export markets.

From a small rented startup to a globally recognized exporter of sustainable agricultural solutions, THUSELCO Holdings today stands as a remarkable symbol of Sri Lankan innovation, resilience, biodegradable product excellence, and global entrepreneurial success.





Transforming Coconut Shells into Global Industrial Value



As part of the Hayleys Group, Haycarb PLC has redefined how a renewable Sri Lankan resource can create global value. By transforming coconut shells into high-performance activated carbon, the company produces a critical industrial material used in purification applications worldwide, from water treatment and air purification to gold recovery and energy storage.



Today, Haycarb stands as one of the world's leading manufacturers of coconut shell-based activated carbon, with an estimated global market share of approximately 16%. Supported by an annual production capacity exceeding 56,800 metric tons, the company serves customers in over 50 countries through a network of marketing subsidiaries in the USA, UK and Australia. Its manufacturing footprint spans Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and Thailand, with expansion into the Philippines currently underway. This global presence not only strengthens the company's competitiveness but also reinforces Sri Lanka's position as a reliable exporter of high-value industrial materials.

This growth highlights a broader change, from traditional agricultural exports to the development of high-value industrial materials. By converting coconut shells, an agricultural by-product, into advanced carbon solutions, Haycarb plays a key role in improving Sri Lanka's export profile beyond raw or semi-processed commodities. This transformation supports foreign exchange generation while creating sustained demand across the coconut supply chain, benefiting thousands of livelihoods from collection and processing to manufacturing and export. It also helps reduce dependence on commodity price fluctuations by shifting toward higher-value applications.



Mr. Rajitha Kariyawasan

Managing Director, Haycarb PLC

At the core of Haycarb's operations , is a circular manufacturing model built on renewable coconut shells. Through integrated sourcing and environmentally responsible charcoaling practices such as its patented Recogen technology and initiatives such as Haritha Angara, the company aligns industrial production with resource efficiency and long-term environmental stewardship. This approach not only strengthens the resilience of the supply chain but also contributes to more sustainable industrial practices globally, ensuring that industrial output remains aligned with long-term environmental responsibility.

As global industries shift toward electrification, Haycarb is expanding its focus into energy storage materials. A key focus area of development is advanced carbon solutions for next-generation

lithium-ion batteries. With state-of-the-art manufacturing capabilities and in-house electrochemical laboratory





expertise, the company is producing specialized carbons engineered for high-performance applications, including silicon–carbon composite anode systems.

These materials support advancements across electric mobility, consumer electronics, and energy storage systems, positioning Sri Lanka within the global transition toward electrification. Applications continue to expand into areas such as drones, power tools, and advanced data infrastructure, highlighting the growing relevance of coconut shell-derived carbon materials in emerging industrial applications.

Haycarb's contribution goes beyond manufacturing and exports. Through a range of environmental and community-focused initiatives, the company is actively supporting sustainable development across the regions it operates in. Programmes such as Puritas Sath Diyawara - Going Beyond have expanded access to safe drinking water in underserved communities, while initiatives in education, healthcare, and rural livelihoods continue to strengthen long-term resilience.

The company's biodiversity conservation efforts, including projects such as *Behold the Turtle*, reflect its broader commitment to protecting natural ecosystems. At the same time, initiatives supporting coconut cultivation and responsible sourcing practices help sustain the agricultural base that underpins the industry.

Together, these efforts have reached over 60,000 beneficiaries, reinforcing the importance of aligning business growth with community well-being and long-term development. By integrating export growth with environmental stewardship and inclusive development, Haycarb demonstrates a model of value creation that extends beyond financial performance.

As Sri Lanka's coconut sector continues to evolve, companies like Haycarb play a pivotal role in shaping



its future. By combining sustainable sourcing, advanced manufacturing, and global market reach, the company shows how traditional industries can be reimagined to meet modern demands.

From a renewable Sri Lankan resource to a high-performance industrial material, Haycarb's journey reflects a broader transformation of Sri Lanka's coconut sector. Through continued investment in innovation, sustainability, and people, Haycarb remains committed to strengthening Sri Lanka's position in global markets, while contributing to long-term economic, environmental, and social impact.



cocotech
Nurtured by Nature

Manufacturer and Exporter of

Coir Based Horticultural, Decorative and Innovative Products

ROOTED IN NATURE. DRIVEN BY TRUST.

PREMIUM COIR SOLUTIONS FROM SRI LANKA TO THE WORLD.

Cocotech Exports Lanka (Pvt) Ltd was established in 1997 to promote and optimise the production and export of coconut coir-based products in Sri Lanka.

Thanks to the dedication of our partners and the confidence placed in us by our customers, we have evolved into a full-fledged limited coir products company, encompassing both manufacturing and exporting operations, within just five years of our inception.

We are a fully-fledged coir products manufacturing company in Sri Lanka that exports products worldwide.

Our products are used in an array of applications, especially in industries like agriculture, horticulture, bioengineering, and eco-engineering.

Our products are categorized according to four different applications: Plant Containers and Support Systems, Decorative Pots, Erosion Control Products, and Growing Media.





OUR RANGE OF COIR PRODUCTS



PLANT SUPPORT POLES (PLANT CREEPERS) COIR GROW POLES



WEED PREVENTION DISKS



COIR MATS



COIR POTS



COIR PLUG



HANGING BASKETS & LINERS

100% NATURAL
Eco-friendly and biodegradable

PREMIUM QUALITY
Consistent quality you can trust

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Cocotech Exports Lanka:
Nearly Three Decades of Knowing What Buyers Want



Tissa Kumarasiri Vithanage founded Cocotech Exports Lanka in 1997, which established itself as a reliable exporter by focusing on quality manufacturing, innovation, and environmentally friendly production methods. The company gradually diversified its product portfolio to include coco peat blocks, grow bags, nursery pots, weed prevention discs, decorative coir products, erosion control solutions, coir poles, geotextiles, and horticultural substrates shipped to markets across Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and beyond.

The global market for sustainable horticultural products is growing steadily. Regulations in Europe and North America restricting peat-based growing media have increased the demand for coco peat and coir substrates. The spread of hydroponics, urban farming, and organic agriculture has added further momentum, while a growing interest in natural fibers for geotextiles, erosion control, and eco-friendly construction is opening new segments for Sri Lankan manufacturers to explore.

The challenges facing the company are shared across the sector, with growing operational pressures and difficulties in obtaining sufficient, quality raw materials to support rising production and export demand. Climate change, increasing labor costs, inconsistent quality standards, and global pressures like fuel shortages* also impact export competitiveness. The entry of foreign operators working through local representatives without formal regulatory approval has cut into market share. Rising packaging material costs have further tightened margins.

Amid these challenges, Cocotech's growth has been steady, with an emphasis on innovation, product customization, and a long-standing focus on biodegradable, sustainable products. Cocotech has introduced patented and innovative coir-based products, promoting the use of 100% biodegradable items as environmentally friendly alternatives to plastic-based materials while investing in efficient production systems, waste minimization practices, and energy-conscious manufacturing processes. Another important aspect of Cocotech's journey has been its contribution to Sri Lanka's export economy and rural employment generation.

Achieving significant recognition, Cocotech has received several Industrial Excellence Awards organized by the Industrial Development Board (IDB) and gained appreciation from institutions such as the Sri Lanka Export Development Board (EDB) and the Coconut Development Authority (CDA), continuing a series of achievements earned consistently since 2017.

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A Golden Milestone:
Ceylon Tea Leads Global Celebrations for International Tea Day 2026



As the Sri Lanka Tea Board celebrates its 50th Anniversary, the island nation reaffirms its role as a global leader in sustainability, craftsmanship, and advocacy.

The year 2026 marked a dual triumph for the Sri Lankan tea industry. As the world united to observe International Tea Day on 21st May, Sri Lanka celebrated a half-century of excellence with the 50th Anniversary of the Sri Lanka Tea Board (SLTB). Under the global theme of International Tea Day—*"Sustaining Tea, Supporting Communities,"* the festivities highlighted tea not merely as a commodity, but as a vital lifeline for millions and a cornerstone of cultural heritage.

The Global Mandate: Why May 21?

The United Nations General Assembly officially designated May 21 as International Tea Day in 2019. This date was strategically chosen to align with the peak production season in major tea-growing regions, ensuring the spotlight shines on the industry when the flush is at its height. The day serves a triple purpose:

- **Supporting Livelihoods:** Protecting the primary income source for millions of families in developing economies.
- **Advancing Sustainability:** Promoting fair trade, climate-resilient farming, and ethical working conditions.
- **Celebrating Culture:** Honoring tea as a universal symbol of health, hospitality, and comfort.

A Voice of Global Advocacy

Sri Lanka's influence currently extends far beyond its borders. The Sri Lanka Tea Board serves as the Co-Chair of the Advocacy Pillar for the FAO/IGG (Intergovernmental Group) on Tea.

In a landmark partnership with the Tea & Herbal Association of Canada, the Board launched a dynamic digital campaign to bridge the gap between the farm and the consumer. Through three evocative themes—**#FarmWithCare, #FromSoilToSpirit, and #BeforeTheBrew**—this social media initiative used short films and visual storytelling to showcase the meticulous craftsmanship and ethical standards that define Tea. These messages were amplified globally by FAO/IGG members, ensuring the story of the leaf to cup journey reached every corner of the globe.

The Ceylon Tea Walk: Unity in Every Step

In the heart of Colombo, the industry's backbone took to the streets. The Ceylon Tea Walk saw over 1,000 participants—ranging from tea pluckers and smallholders to planters, manufacturers, brokers, and exporters—marching in a powerful display of solidarity.

Starting at the Sri Lanka Tea Board Head Office in Kollupitiya and concluding at the iconic Galle Face Green, the walk was a tribute to the entire value chain. The event was graced by Hon. Sundaralingam Pradeep, Deputy Minister of Plantation and Community Infrastructure, as the Chief Guest.

At the finish line, the atmosphere was electric:

- **Versatility in a Cup:** Attendees sampled everything from refreshing Ceylon Iced Tea to traditional Masala and Ginger Milk Teas.
- **Educational Engagement:** A lively Ceylon Tea Quiz tested the crowd's knowledge, followed by a masterful brewing demonstration by Mr. Kumar Shanker, winner of the National Tea Master Championship.
- **Entertainment for the audience:** Vibrant cultural showcases by the Department of Cultural Affairs infused the event with energy and tradition, captivating the audience from the first note.

Diplomatic Soft Power: Ceylon Tea Evenings

The celebrations resonated across 27 international capitals. Partnering with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism, the Sri Lanka Tea Board hosted exclusive Ceylon Tea Evenings at 27 Sri Lankan Missions overseas.

These sessions went beyond simple tastings; they were strategic technical demonstrations. Global trade members, diplomats, and media representatives were educated on the unique artisanal methods and diverse flavor profiles of Sri Lanka's seven distinct tea-growing regions.

The Path Forward

By merging local tradition with global advocacy, Sri Lanka has reinforced its position as more than just a producer—it is the guardian of the world's tea heritage. As the Sri Lanka Tea Board enters its next half-century, the message remains clear: every cup of Ceylon Tea is a testament to a journey of passion, from the mist-covered highlands to the spirit of the final brew.









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Engineering Excellence at Port of Colombo: CWIT's Partnership with Sri Lanka's Export Community



Colombo West International Terminal (Private) Limited

Sri Lanka's export economy is built on connectivity, efficiency, and the ability to compete in a fast-moving global market. At the center of this dynamic **stands Colombo West International Terminal (Private) Limited** (CWIT), a next-generation container terminal redefining the standards of port operations in the region.

Strategically located within the Port of Colombo, CWIT stands as one of the most significant infrastructure investments in the country's maritime sector. Developed through a powerful collaboration between global and local stakeholders, the terminal embodies a vision to transform Colombo into a leading transshipment hub in the Indian Ocean.

But in addition to infrastructure, CWIT's purpose is to serve as a strategic partner in Sri Lanka's export journey.

A Strategic Partnership with the National Chamber of Exporters

Recognizing the vital role exporters play in national growth, CWIT has forged an exclusive partnership with the **National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka (NCE)**. This collaboration marks a significant step in aligning world-class port capabilities with the needs of Sri Lanka's export community.



As the **Exclusive Port Terminal Partner of the NCE**, CWIT is committed to supporting exporters through improved efficiency, connectivity, and seamless logistics solutions. The partnership also highlights a shared goal to empower Sri Lankan businesses to expand their global reach while strengthening the country's position in international trade.

This alliance goes beyond recognition, as it is a working partnership designed to deliver tangible value to exporters by ensuring that the gateway to global markets is as competitive and reliable as possible.



Mr. Lakmal Suriyaarachchi

Manager – Business Development
Colombo West International Terminal (Private) Limited

A Record-Breaking First Year

CWIT's impact has been both immediate and extraordinary. Within just its first year of operations, the terminal achieved a remarkable feat, handling **one million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs)**.

This achievement is especially significant as it represents the fastest time any terminal at the Port of Colombo has reached the **one-million-container** mark during its inaugural year.

In the global port industry, such milestones usually take years to accomplish. CWIT's rapid success

highlights the strength of its operational planning, the efficiency of its systems, and the confidence placed in it by leading international shipping lines.

For Sri Lankan exporters, this means faster turnaround times, better reliability, and stronger integration into global supply chains, which are key advantages in an increasingly competitive international marketplace.

Built for Performance, Designed for the Future

CWIT distinguishes itself as Sri Lanka's first fully automated deep-water terminal, equipped with advanced technologies that improve precision, speed, and operational efficiency.



The terminal features a quay length of approximately 1,400 metres and a depth of 20 metres, enabling it to accommodate some of the world's largest container vessels. With an annual handling capacity of around 3.2 million TEUs, CWIT significantly strengthens the Port of Colombo's ability to handle growing cargo volumes.

Automation and digital integration play a central role in CWIT's operations. From intelligent cargo tracking systems to modern crane technology, every aspect of the terminal is designed to minimize delays and optimize performance.

Equally important is CWIT's commitment to sustainability. By incorporating energy-efficient systems and electrified equipment, the terminal aligns itself with global efforts to create environmentally responsible port operations.

Empowering Sri Lanka's Export Community

CWIT's role goes beyond simply handling containers, extending to enabling opportunity.

Through its partnership with the NCE and its operational excellence, CWIT actively contributes to creating a more supportive ecosystem for exporters. By reducing logistical bottlenecks and improving connectivity, the terminal helps Sri Lankan products reach global markets faster and more efficiently.



This is especially important in today's trade environment, where speed, reliability, and cost-effectiveness are key determinants of competitiveness.

CWIT understands that every shipment represents not just cargo, but the ambitions of businesses, the livelihoods of communities, and the economic progress of the country.

A Gateway to Global Trade

As global shipping networks evolve, ports must continuously adapt to remain competitive. CWIT plays a critical role in ensuring that the Port of Colombo remains at the forefront of regional maritime hubs.

By attracting major shipping lines and accommodating next-generation vessels, the terminal strengthens Sri Lanka's connectivity to key international markets around the globe.

Its success reinforces Colombo's long-standing reputation as a vital transshipment hub, while setting new benchmarks for performance and innovation.

Shaping the Future Together

CWIT's journey is only just beginning, but its impact is already clear. The combination of record-breaking performance, advanced infrastructure, and strategic collaboration positions the terminal as a key driver of Sri Lanka's export growth.

In partnership with the National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka, CWIT reaffirms its commitment to supporting exporters, strengthening trade connectivity, and contributing to sustainable economic development.

As Sri Lanka continues to expand its presence in global markets, CWIT stands ready, not just as a terminal, but as a trusted partner powering Sri Lanka's export future.

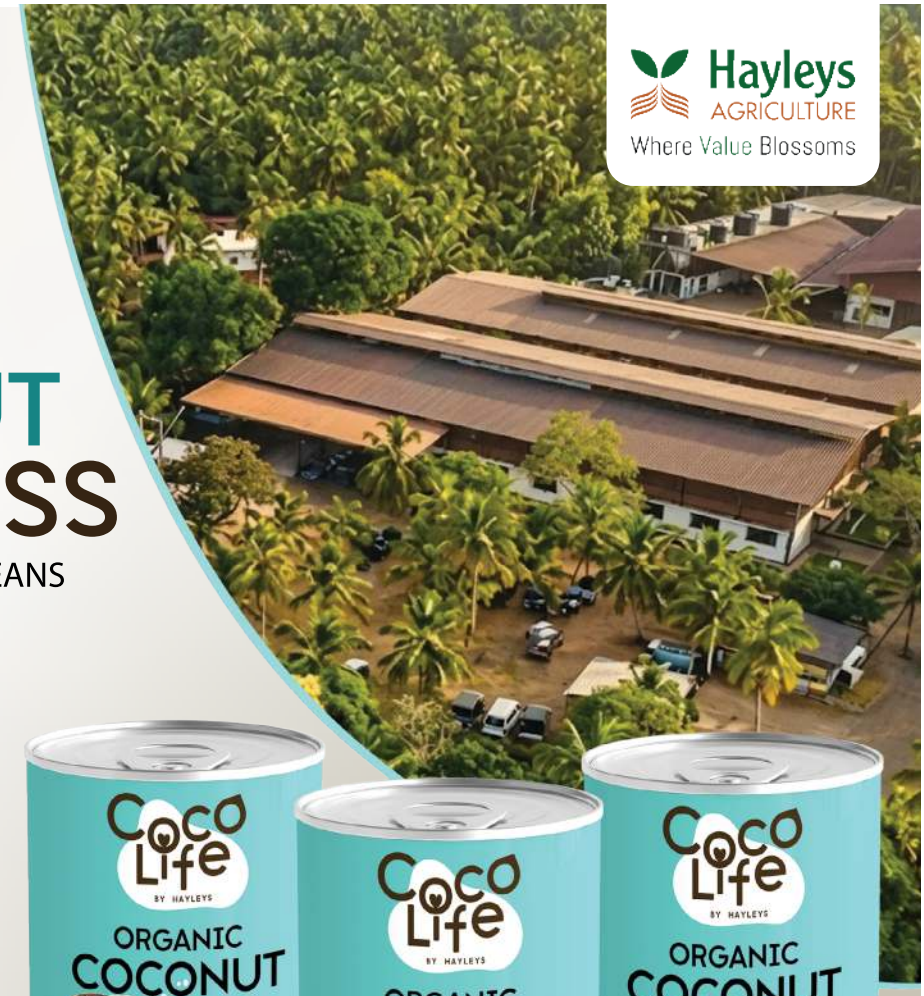


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Export Performance



Value in US Dollars

Sri Lanka's export sector showed strong resilience in April 2026, with total exports reaching US$ 1,380.93 million — a 6% increase compared to April 2025. This growth was driven primarily by merchandise exports, which rose 9.87%, while services exports continued to play a vital role in overall earnings, underscoring the growing importance of the services sector in the country's export portfolio. The cumulative export earnings for the first four months of 2026 stood at US$ 5,784.38 million, reflecting the sector's ability to withstand global economic challenges and maintain steady growth momentum.

Major export markets highlighted in the first quarter of 2026 showing a shift from product sector to services and value-added products

- **Sector Pressures:** Apparel/textiles, tea, and spice exports faced declines due to weaker international demand, though services and value-added goods compensated.

TABLE 1: Comparison of ***Product wise*** Merchandise Export Performance (US$ Mn.)

Exports Of Goods & Services	2025 Jan-Apr	2026 Jan-Apr	% Growth (25-26)	Apr 2025	Apr 2026	% Growth (25-26)
Apparel & Textile	1747.91	1618.63	-7.4	364.47	346.67	-4.88
Tea	478.29	451.58	-5.58	107.34	100.02	-6.82
Coconut-Based	334.72	406.28	21.38	74.64	92.17	23.49
Rubber-Based	312.43	313.22	0.25	61.15	64.35	5.23
Processed Food & Beverages	181.98	237.7	30.62	43.52	63.18	45.17
Electrical & Electronic Components	129.25	185.54	43.55	30.74	43.5	41.51
Spices And Concentrates	142.98	138.09	-3.42	23.95	25.45	6.26
Diamond, Gems & Jewelery	122.95	132.99	8.17	30.74	31.4	2.15
Seafood	74.96	93.34	24.52	26.7	30.19	13.07
Mineral & Mineral Based	33.55	33.71	0.48	7.8	8.33	6.79
Other Export Crops	20.05	33.04	64.79	7.39	8.27	11.91
Fruits & Nuts	13.94	15.71	12.7	4.89	3.74	-23.52
Vegetables	10.12	11.79	16.5	4.63	4.15	-10.37
Ornamental Fish	7.16	7.14	-0.28	3.11	2.44	-21.54
Flowers & Foliage	4.7	4.68	-0.43	1.75	1.34	-23.43
Boat Building	20.73	18.68	-9.89	15.05	16.3	8.31
Petroleum Products	324.15	438.63	35.32	65.14	129.72	99.13
Others	355.77	383.86	7.9	95.22	92.55	-2.8
Total Merchandize Exports	**4315.64**	**4524.62**	**4.80**	**968.23**	**1063.77**	**9.87**
ICT/BPM	474.36	581.7	22.63	116.97	146.09	24.89
Construction	50.07	31.45	-37.18	16.5	8.26	-49.93
Financial Services	17.69	32.24	82.27	4.76	10.45	119.41
Transport & Logistics	688.86	614.36	-10.82	199.63	152.36	-23.68
Total Services Exports	**1230.99**	**1259.76**	**2.34**	**337.87**	**317.16**	**-6.13**
Total Exports	**5546.63**	**5784.38**	**4.30**	**1306.10**	**1380.93**	**6.00**

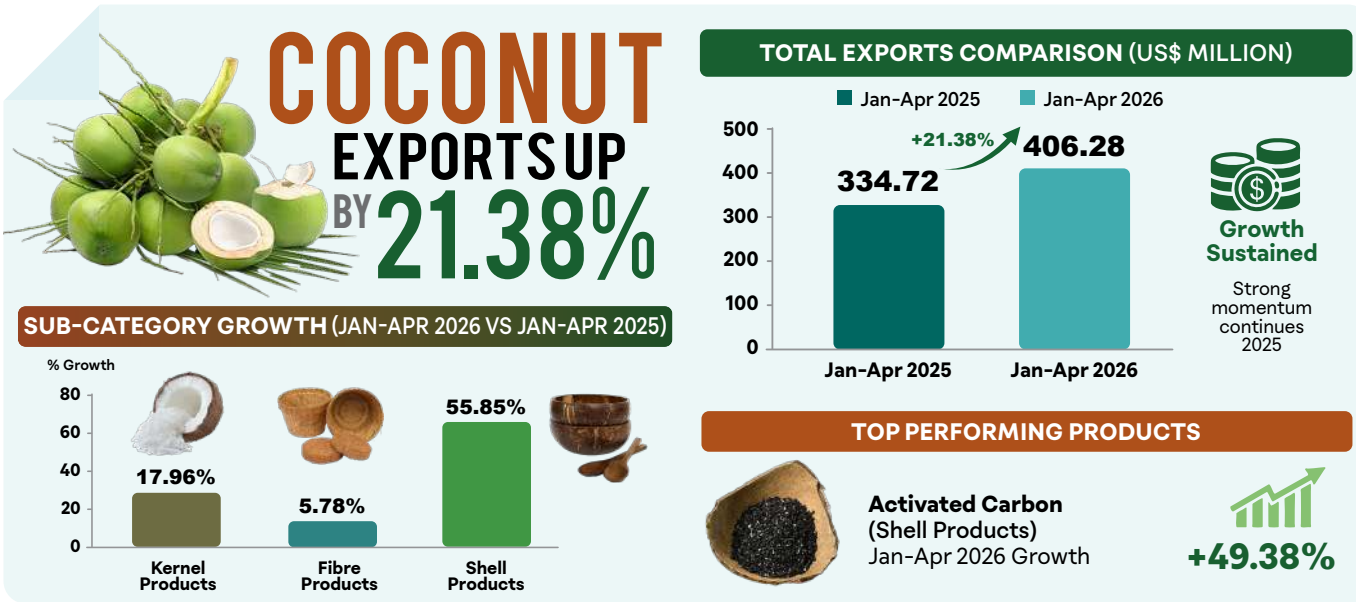
- **Major Export Markets:** India and Pakistan (exports to FTA partners grew significantly by 38.26% YoY)

TABLE 2: Comparison of Merchandise Export Performance of ***Top 15 Export Destinations*** (US$ Mn.)

Country	2025 Jan-Apr	2026 Jan-Apr	% Growth (25-26)	Apr 2025	Apr 2026	% Growth (25-26)
01. United States	965.97	945.76	-2.09	190.38	196.37	3.15
02. India	334.4	364.15	8.9	77.76	76.66	-1.41
03. United Kingdom	323.91	298.13	-7.96	73.57	62.4	-15.18
04. Italy	205.72	222.74	8.27	52.92	47.53	-10.19
05. Germany	227.44	215.63	-5.19	45.91	47.25	2.92
06. Netherlands	142.5	137.63	-3.42	29.3	32.48	10.85
07. China	88.78	110.53	24.5	19.66	24.4	24.11
08. France	84.81	88.1	3.88	19.67	23.51	19.52
09. United Arab Emirates	102.89	86.18	-16.24	20.78	13.78	-33.69
10. Australia	80.44	85.99	6.9	16.25	19.68	21.11
11. Canada	101.13	83.33	-17.6	23.17	22.56	-2.63
12. Belgium	77.19	78.07	1.14	18	15.64	-13.11
13. Mexico	51.6	69.98	35.62	9.37	13.18	40.66
14. Japan	58.21	67.64	16.2	14.12	17.17	21.6
15. Hong Kong	75.02	66.48	-11.38	32.74	13.96	-57.36
Others	1395.63	1604.28	14.95	324.63	437.2	34.68
Total Merchandize Exports	**4315.64**	**4524.62**	**4.80**	**968.23**	**1063.77**	**9.87**

TABLE 3: Comparison of ***Region Wise*** Merchandise Export Performance (US$ Mn.)

Region	2025 Jan-Apr	2026 Jan-Apr	% Growth (25-26)	Apr 2025	Apr 2026	% Growth (25-26)
Nafta	1118.71	1099.08	-1.75	222.92	232.11	4.12
European Union (EU) Excluding UK	949.51	996.72	4.97	214.5	224.42	4.62
South Asia	441.22	513.22	16.32	104.24	124.51	19.45
Middle East Countries (Excl. Cyprus & Egypt)	334.21	269.67	-19.31	74.64	49.58	-33.57
African Countries	127.55	128.56	0.79	33.16	37.04	11.7
Asean Countries	113.65	159.03	39.93	24.78	29.54	19.21
CIS Countries	86.45	82.46	-4.62	16.07	21.8	35.66
Others	1144.34	1275.88	11.49	277.92	344.77	24.05
Total Merchandize Exports	**4315.64**	**4524.62**	**4.80**	**968.23**	**1063.77**	**9.87**





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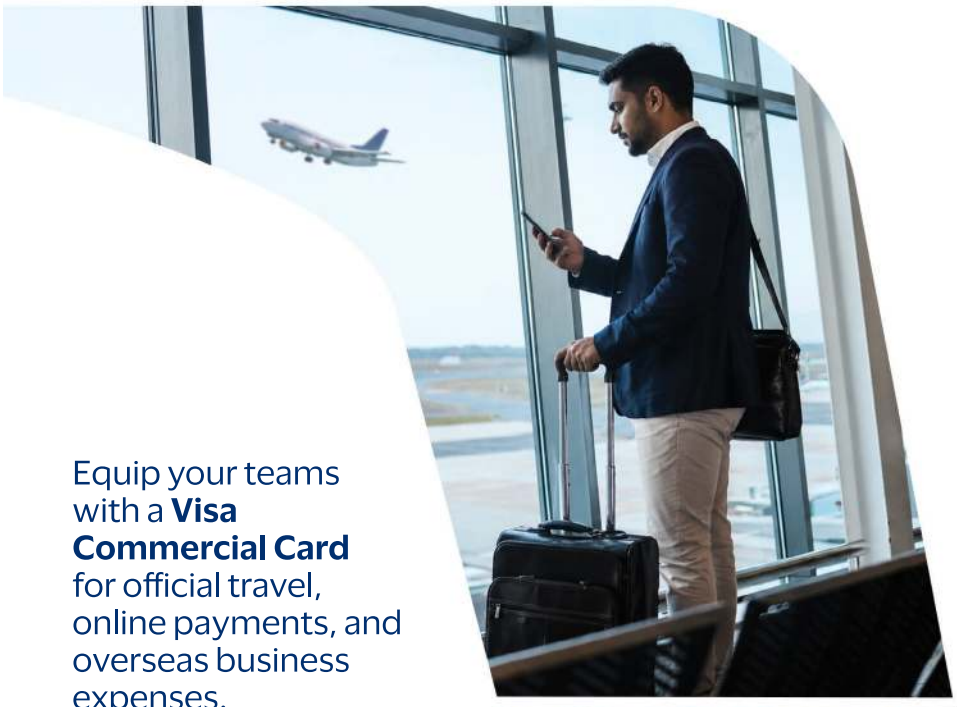
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