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## PALM LITERATURE

### Coconut Product Development

Although often overshadowed these days by the more economically important oil palm, the coconut still furnishes the widest array of commercial products of any palm species. Development of new coconut products and technology has been the objective of the International Coconut Development Associations (ICDA), located in Stockholm. In 1978 it began a quarterly publication, *International Coir Development Newsletter*, devoted to research, industrial processing, and marketing of coir fiber. By its second year, articles on other coconut products were added and this led in 1981 to the adoption of the new name *Coconut Industries*. This periodical is now devoting most issues to feature topics such as coconut for food, coconut energy, or coconut oil, along with general information from other publications, industrial news, production figures, trade inquiries, and so forth. For anyone involved with the coconut industry, or interested in following future trends, this represents an indispensable source of current information.

The ICDA also is distributing two other documents issued in 1981. A 44-page report entitled "Coconut Fibre in Swe-

den," was prepared to promote the import of products from developing countries. "Introduction to Integrated Processing of Coconuts," 99 pages, is a comprehensive plan, designed by Scarab Development AB, for the simultaneous processing of coconuts to obtain oil, food products, coconut water, fiber, and charcoal.<sup>1</sup> This integrated processing procedure would increase both productive employment and export earnings in the countries where the coconuts are grown. Adoption of this technique on a large scale could signal the beginning of a new era for this palm which has so often been called the "tree of life."

A subscription to the periodical may be obtained for 20 pounds sterling per year in industrialized, and for 7 in developing countries. The first report is free of charge except postage and handling, the second costs \$75 to subscribers. All can be ordered from ICDA, Box 7605, S-103 94 Stockholm, Sweden.

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<sup>1</sup> Integrated processing of coconuts in the Philippines was advocated by Vicente D. Gabriel, Sr. in *Progress and Prosperity in the Coconut Industry*, Philippine Inventors Commission, 1976, 56 pp.