



# Coconut Sector Development in Maldives

**Hussain Faisal**  
**Assistant Director**  
**Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture**

# Introduction

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



# Different of varieties



**Fadihi Ruh'**

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



**Nulhu Ruh'**

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



**Rathu Ruh'**

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



**Dhabu Ruh'**

Outer colour of tender coconut is a colour in between Fadihi and Rathu ruh' tender coconut outer colour.



**Dhondhabu Ruh'**

Outer colour of tender coconut is brighter than Rathu ruh tender coconut outer colour.



**Dhon Ruh'**

Ripen lemon coloured outer colour of tender coconut

# Usage of coconut palm

## Direct Products

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

## Socio Environment

**Protection to islands**

**Protection from soil erosion**

**Wind break**

**Food security**

**Employment opportunities**

## Indirect Products

**VCO**

**Soap**

**Lotion**

**Biscuits**

**Amenity**

**Agro- Eco Tourism**



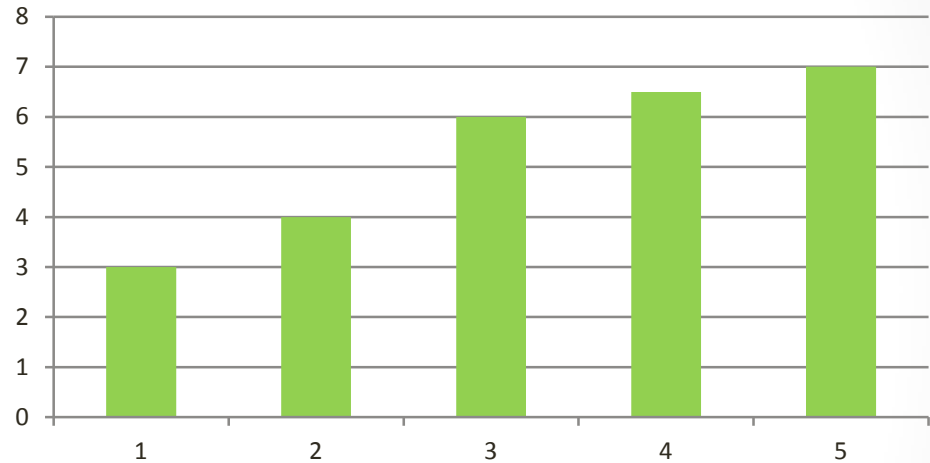
# Challenges

- \* Old age of current stock
- \* Climate change
- \* Insects and diseases

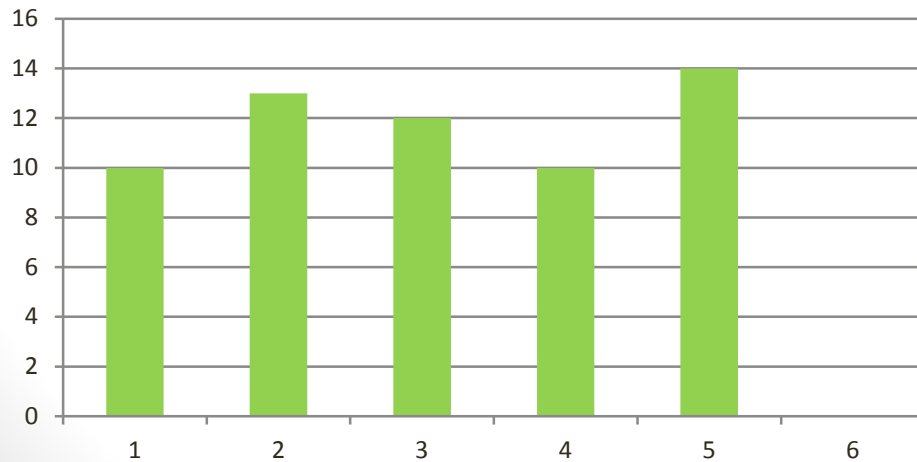


- \* Urbanization
- \* Changing environment
- \* Increase in price of coconut products

**Avg. Price (MVR) of Coconut**



**Price of Tender coconut**





# Way Forward

- Agro forestry
  - Reducing the competition between agriculture
- Stock Assessment
- Value Addition
  - VCO
  - Copra
  - Mat weaving
- Rejuvenation of old growth
- Institutional changes
- Capacity building
- Awareness creation

# Production of Virgin Coconut Oil and Value-Added Products



Dehusking of coconuts using a traditional dehusking tool



Grating of coconut meat



Milk extraction machine



Mixing coconut milk and water



Pouring the coconut milk into fermentation containers



Harvesting of oil after fermentation



Pouring the milk into the cream separator feed bowl



Preliminary heating of coconut oil/cream



VCO Filter set-up



# SOAP



# Other products



2009-04-09

Cookies



Muffins



2009-03-10

Cream



2009-04

Lotion

# Conclusion

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

Thank you

