

Economy of Dominica

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Agriculture[[edit](#)]

About 22.6% of the total land area is arable. Agricultural production was on the decline even before the 1979 hurricane disaster. The main crop of Dominica is bananas, output of which had fallen to 29,700 tons in 1978. As a result of Hurricane David, production hit a low of 15,700 tons in 1979. Agriculture suffered a further blow from Hurricane Allen in August 1980. However, after outside financial support began to rehabilitate the sector, production rose to 27,800 tons in 1981 and totaled 30,000 tons in 1999.

Secondary industries[[edit](#)]

Dominica's small manufacturing sector is almost entirely dependent on agriculture, and the island has built up a handful of successful industries specializing in soaps and other agricultural byproducts. The largest manufacturer is Dominica Coconut Products, controlled by Colgate-Palmolive, which produces soap from coconuts. The factory has an agreement to sell an estimated 3 million bars of soap each year to Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines. Dominican soap is also exported throughout the region, but has recently encountered intensified competition from other regional producers, especially in the important export markets of Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

DOMINICA COCONUT PRODUCTS LTD

Company Overview

The company is a privately held firm that is engaged in the manufacture and trade of soap and other detergent products. It was incorporated in 1995 and conducts its business from its registered head office located in Belfast, Dominica.

The company is primarily involved in manufacturing and packaging soaps and other detergents, such as laundry detergents, dishwashing detergents, toothpaste gels and tooth powders, natural glycerin, hand soaps, dentifrices, presoaks, toilet soaps, waterless hand soaps, and scouring cleansers. Its products are widely distributed throughout the country in cooperation with its partners and affiliated companies.

The company has its active operations principally in Dominica.

Business Summary

Dominica Coconut Products Ltd. Manufacture of coconut by-products including soap.

Description and history

Dominica Coconut Products Ltd. The Company is engaged in the production of raw oil and soap primarily for export. The company's parent company is Colgate Palmolive (Dominica) Inc., and its ultimate parent company is the Colgate Palmolive Company, both are incorporated in the United States of America.

The registered office and principal place of business of the company is located at Belfast.

Company Address

BELFAST, P O BOX 18

City province or state postal code

ROSEAU, Dominica

Phone: +767 449 1101

Fax: +767 449 1809



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Coconut



The coconut palm (*Cocos nucifera*) serves a multi-functional role in the Caribbean region where it is commonly grown. Small scale production of products from the coconut palm makes an important contribution to food security. At the industrial level, the coconut industry is an important source of employment and income in rural communities. The coconut palm also aids in the prevention of coastal erosion while providing charming landscapes that are attractive to both tourists and locals. Beyond the coastline, the coconut palm is highly demanded for landscaping and home beautification. The coconut produces a variety of products which are consumed in the region and internationally. These include fresh green and dry nuts, copra, coconut oil and coconut water among others. Coconut oil is consumed as food while a significant amount goes into the oleo-chemical industry. It is also used in food preparation and in the soap making process. Additionally, the shell is used for various fibres, charcoal and other products not yet fully commercialized.

According to [The Coconut Industry Market Intelligence Report](#), (Singh, R.H., Seepersaud, G and Rankine, L. B. - December 2007) which was commissioned as part of the CARICOM Regional Transformation Programme for Agriculture, the high price of petroleum-based fuel has brought about a renewed interest in the use of coconut oil for conversion into bio-fuel with the main focus being on the commercial products from the regional industry. Coconut oil prices increased to USD 674 / tonne in 2004 from a low of USD 324 / tonne in 2001. The Caribbean produced an average of 512,000 tonnes of coconuts annually over the period 1990/2002 with CARICOM accounting for 301,000 tonnes or 59%. Jamaica was the major producer with 170,000 tonnes (56%) followed by Guyana with 59,000 tonnes (20.6%) and Trinidad and Tobago with 23,000 tonnes (8%). Despite this, CARICOM remains a net importer of oil for table consumption and industrial use. There is potential for supplies to both the regional and export markets in the USA, Canada and European Union markets which are major destinations for coconut oil and coconut products.

The industry is however faced with some constraints which have resulted in the loss of market share. Principal among these is the suspected adverse health and nutrition effects on humans but studies, such as that conducted by Spade and Dietchy (1988), have shown that coconut oil prevents the formation of [hepatic cholesterol esters](#). . In addition to this, the [lauric acid](#)

found in coconut oil provides the disease fighting [fatty acid monolaurin](#) which boosts the immune system. Although this controversy was not sustained, supplies of coconut oil in the global market remained at low levels due to the effect of pests and diseases on production. The growing demand for coconut water as a beverage has shown that the coconut production has not kept pace with growth in demand. The bottling and storage of coconut water for extended shelf life and improved marketability is still posing a serious challenge to packers. Further, in some countries the market is facing supply constraints which may be due to the fact that many coconut groves in the Region are aged with tall trees, which increases the cost of harvesting the nuts. There is also the need to select coconut varieties specifically suited to the water nut market with respect to flavour, yield and ease of harvesting. Research & Development could also improve the yield and profitability of coconut intended for the bottled water market or coconut intended for other uses such as oils or fibres. Investment in the replanting of coconut trees and research in extending the shelf life of bottled coconut water could go a far way in repositioning the industry for opportunities available for the product.

Useful links

[The Regional Coconut Industry - Industry Development Strategies - Singh, R.H., Seepersad, G., Rankine, L.B., January 2008](#)

[The Regional Coconut Industry - Global Market Intelligence - Singh, R.H., Seepersad, G., Rankine, L.B., December 2007](#)

[Pomeroon Oil Mills, Guyana](#)

[The Coconut Industry in Guyana - Status and Prospects](#)

Article on Coconut Industry in Guyana, Ministry of Agriculture

[Coconut Industry Record Explosive 2009 Growth](#)

Newspaper article on growth in exports of coconuts from Guyana (April 2010)

Dominica to Pursue Revival of Coconut Industry

Posted date: **April 24, 2013**



Ranjit H. Singh, Team Leader & Agricultural Economist

With the significant turnaround in the coconut market and a growing demand for coconut oil, also known as virgin oil; CARIFORUM has embarked on a Regional project in collaboration with the European Union and the Agricultural Sector in Dominica, in an effort to revive the Coconut Industry.

Dr. Ranjit H. Singh, Team Leader and Agricultural Economist is here on a project to identify the needs for developing the coconut Industry within the Region.

Dr. Singh identified ways in which coconut is beneficial, not just economically but nutritional benefits as well.

The Agricultural Economist stated that one of the biggest challenges that he has noticed is to get people encouraged and develop an interest in coconuts as it was in the



past.

He said there are a lot of coconuts throughout the Region, but due to the ages of the trees they are difficult to climb and harvest.

His advice was to exploit the market through rehabilitation and replanting of coconuts.

An important objective was identified with this project and that is to alleviate rural poverty.

Therefore the entire sector along with Dr. Singh is looking at ways the project can contribute to rural development.

Many interventions such as helping to train individuals, giving them access to resources and equipment and helping them to reinvest are on the agenda.



Dr. Singh stated that support will be provided to small scale business already in the coconut Industry so that they can become competitive Entrepreneurs.

Coconut Products at the Kalinago Barana Autê – Island Tours Inc. 2006



The coconut tree provides many things from the roots, to the trunk, to the flowers, fruits, leaves and the nuts. A large percentage of the Kalinago population is directly and indirectly dependent on coconut.

The Kalinago Barana Autê offers the opportunity to explore a large range of coconut products that evolved from the skills, creativity and tradition of the Kalinago people of Dominica. These products include crafts, eats, drinks and medicines.

Coconut Oil is achieved by using fresh coconut meat with no chemicals added. Hence a natural, pure coconut oil is obtained this way with a shelf life of several years. Coconut Oils are used to help fight attacking viruses, bacteria, and other pathogens.
