

Press release

Variety from the coconut palm:

IPD presents coconut specialities from Sri Lanka

IPD supports exhibitors from Sri Lanka and ten more partner countries at Biofach.

Bonn/Berlin, 27.01.2020 – At this year’s Biofach the product variety of the coconut palm is presented by the exhibitors from Sri Lanka: They are bringing a variety of coconut specialities such as dried coconut, virgin coconut oil, coconut blossom sugar, coconut butter, coconut flour, coconut milk and coconut water to the world's leading trade fair for organic food, which takes place in Nuremberg from February 12 to 15. Further highlights from Sri Lanka are spices such as, Ceylon cinnamon and different varieties of pepper, as well as essential oils. Besides the exhibitors from Sri Lanka, the Import Promotion Desk (IPD) supports exporters from Colombia, Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ecuador, Ghana, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Tunisia and Ukraine. They will be presenting their regional specialities in organic quality at the joint stand of IPD and the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) (Booth 3A | 3A-220) as well as at the national pavilions.

The product range of the coconut palm is large and the possibilities for their application are various. Coconut blossom sugar is popular as an alternative sweetener. Virgin coconut oil is appreciated in the kitchen as well as in cosmetics. Coconut flakes are used as an ingredient for cakes, pastries, desserts and in confectionery production, and coconut chips are a healthy snack. The gluten-free flour is ground from the deoiled coconut flesh and therefore contains significantly less fat and calories than other coconut products.

In Sri Lanka, the climatic conditions are ideal for the coconut palm. Hence, coconut plantations form an agricultural focus on the island alongside with tea plantations. Many of the small farmers in Sri Lanka cultivate traditionally, without the application of plant protection products and therefore offer organic products. For further processing - whether in the production of coconut blossom sugar or coconut oil - gentle production methods are used. "The coconut products of our partners from Sri Lanka meet the high-quality requirements of the EU market," says Dr. Julia Hoffmann, IPD project manager. "We therefore estimate the export potential as very high. “

In total the IPD supports over 40 exporters at the Biofach and presents a broad spectrum of organic products from emerging markets and developing countries: the product variety comprises of peanuts and sesame from Egypt and Ethiopia as well as dried mangoes and citrus

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peel from Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. The Indonesian exhibitors bring with them apart from coconut blossom sugar, also ginger, cacao beans and rice in organic quality. A speciality from the Amazon rainforest in Ecuador are the caffeine containing Guayusa leaves. Walnuts, walnut oil as well as plum products come from Kyrgyzstan. Snacks made from plantain, as for instance salty and sweet chips are specialities from Colombia. The exhibitors from Tunisia show an exceptional product spectrum – from dates, figs, olives and olive oil over to saffron, aloe vera and spirulina-products. The product range from the Ukraine is similarly diverse: among others it consists of dried herbs and blossoms, fresh fruits and vegetables as well as exceptional cereal species.

Import Promotion Desk (IPD)

The Import Promotion Desk (IPD) is an **initiative for import promotion** in Germany. IPD fulfils a hinge function between small and medium-sized enterprises in selected emerging markets and developing countries on the one hand and European importers on the other. The objective is to integrate the partner countries into global trade, thereby contributing towards sustainable economic development in these countries. IPD introduces exporters from its partner countries to the EU market and assists them in setting up trading relations. For European importers, the IPD opens up new supply sources in the partner countries and assists them in the procurement process for specific products. IPD is currently active in 13 countries: Egypt, Ethiopia, Ecuador, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Colombia, Nepal, Peru, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, and Ukraine. The IPD focusses on specific product groups: fresh fruit and vegetables, natural ingredients for foods, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics, technical wood, cut flowers and sustainable tourism. IPD has been established and implemented by sequa gGmbH – the globally operating development organisation of German industry. It collaborates closely with the Federation of German Wholesale, Foreign Trade and Services (BGA.). IPD is funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Further information at www.importpromotiondesk.de.

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