

Coco Coir and Coir By-products

Coco Coir is the natural fiber found between the internal shell and the outer coat of a coconut. Coir is used to make products like floor mats, sacks, ropes, fishing and erosion nets, among others.

Coir is a fibrous material derived from the coconut husk using a decortication machine. The decortication process applied to the coconut husks produces 30% coir and 70% peat or dust.²²

Based on the Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority, by-products of coir include geonets, twine, mattress fibers, coco fiber board, coir tufted mats, coir twines or yarns, coco peat, organic fertilizer which are used by such industries as textile, horticulture, fiber crafts, mining, and shipping.²³

The properties of coir that distinguishes it from all the natural fibers are its thickness, durability, resiliency and resistancy to microbial action and salt water damage. Its colors range from light to dark brown depending on the maturity of the nuts processed. White fiber is generally obtained from green nuts while brown ones are derived from mature nuts.

In 2018, the total Philippine coco coir exports were valued at US\$6.42 million and its major export destinations were China, Japan, UK, Spain and Egypt.



Products for development and promotion

- ▶ **Coco Nets / Coco Twines**
- ▶ **Stitched mats**
 - Mattresses
 - Plant liners
 - Planting materials
- ▶ **Tufted Mats**
- ▶ **Coir ropes/cordage**
- ▶ **Organic fertilizer with peat as raw material**
- ▶ **Peat blocks**



²² Product Information, Philippine Coconut Authority, www.pca.gov.ph. Accessed on 25 May 2020

²³ Industry Profiles, DTI-Export Marketing Bureau, www.tradelinphilippines.dti.gov.ph. Accessed on 25 May 2020.
OIC-ARD Marcelina S. Alcantara, National Coco Coir Industry Cluster Coordinator, National Coco Coir Inter-Agency TWG.