

## **Incubation facility for production of virgin coconut oil and its value added products to increase coconut farmer's income**

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### **Project Objectives**

The ultimate aim of the project is to enhance the livelihood of coconut farmers by production of VCO and value added products from the residual cake.

The specific objectives in plan are enlisted below:

- To set up a complete line for virgin coconut oil processing and packaging
- To extend the VCO processing lines with subsequent lines for preparation of value added products from the residual cake of VCO
- To extend the benefits to stakeholders and farmers by conducting trainings and opening up the line for incubation services.

### **Description**

The productivity of coconut in India stands at 11481 nuts/ha and the south of India tops the production with 2082.11 ha of the nation's farmland dedicated for the cultivation of Coconut (CDB,2018). A farmer would be able to get more than ten times the monetary benefits through value addition rather than selling the raw coconut. This highlights the importance of setting up an incubation center facility entirely dedicated to the VCO processing.

Virgin coconut oil (VCO) is growing in popularity as functional food oil and the public awareness of it is increasing which will create a dramatic growth in the VCO market. Lot of enquiry is getting for IIFPT incubation center regarding VCO processing. Presently we don't have the facility for the same. Once an entire processing line created, the virgin coconut oil can be processed by cold pressing and the residual cakes can be utilized for value added product development resulting in a complete utilization of the nut. At present, accessibility to the VCO processing lines and technology limits the local farmers from pursuing towards its production. This has resulted in the lesser supply of the same in market. Currently, the awareness on the benefits of VCO has been widespread among the public and the demand has been rising. Hence, this would be a suitable period for establishment of such a facility to benefit the coconut farmers and self-help groups towards value addition of coconut.