

2010

May

## Recent Developments in Research on Coconut at MARDI\*

A. SIVAPRAGASAM AND MANSOR, P.

*Rice and Industrial Crops Center, Ibu Pejabat MARDI, Peti Surat 12301, Pejabat Besar Pos, 50774 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*

*The Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI) has geared its research initiatives to meet the current challenges of the Malaysian coconut industry. They are, viz. to increase the income of coconut farmers and to meet the demand for nuts as feedstock for the domestic small and medium coconut-based industries. The research strategies adopted entailed activities along the production value chain, such as: (1) Development of new and specialty coconut varieties; (2) To encourage coconut-based mixed farming to maximize the income per unit area of coconut farmers through efficient crop husbandry and optimal use of resources with reduced dependence on external inputs; (3) Promote mechanization of post harvest operations, and (4) Develop new food (e.g. VCO) and non food (e.g. coir fibre) coconut-based products to stimulate downstream development.*

**Keywords:** Coconut, MARDI, research, value chain.

**June**

