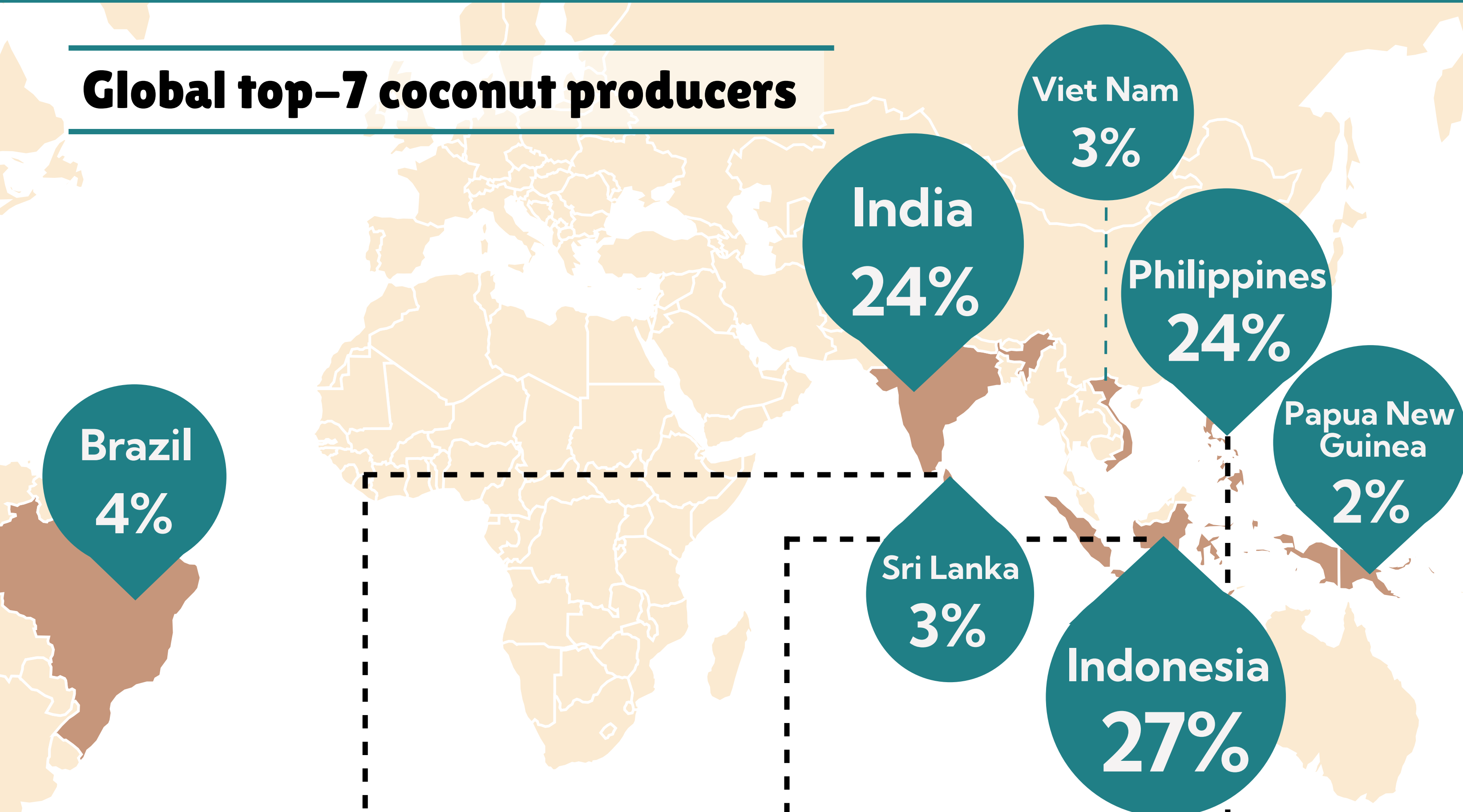


# Coconut

## Production & Trade

### Global top-7 coconut producers

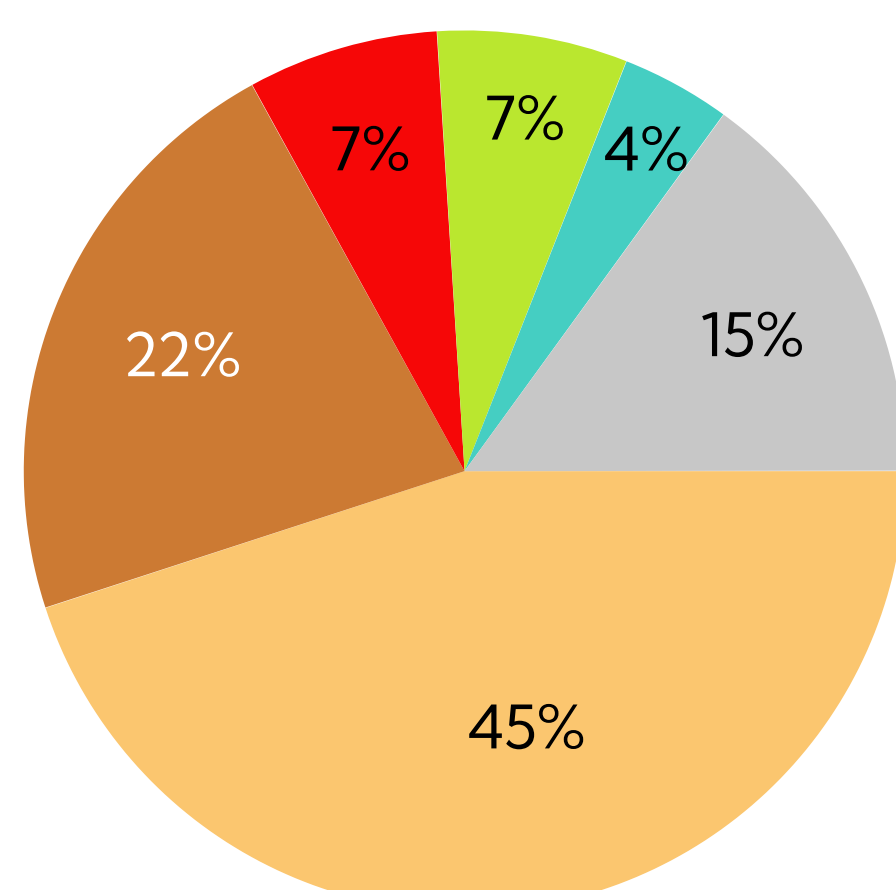


The Philippines and Indonesia are the largest suppliers of coconut products to the EU, respectively representing 47% and 39% of 2021 EU imports for dried coconuts, and 85% and 12% for imports of crude coconut oil

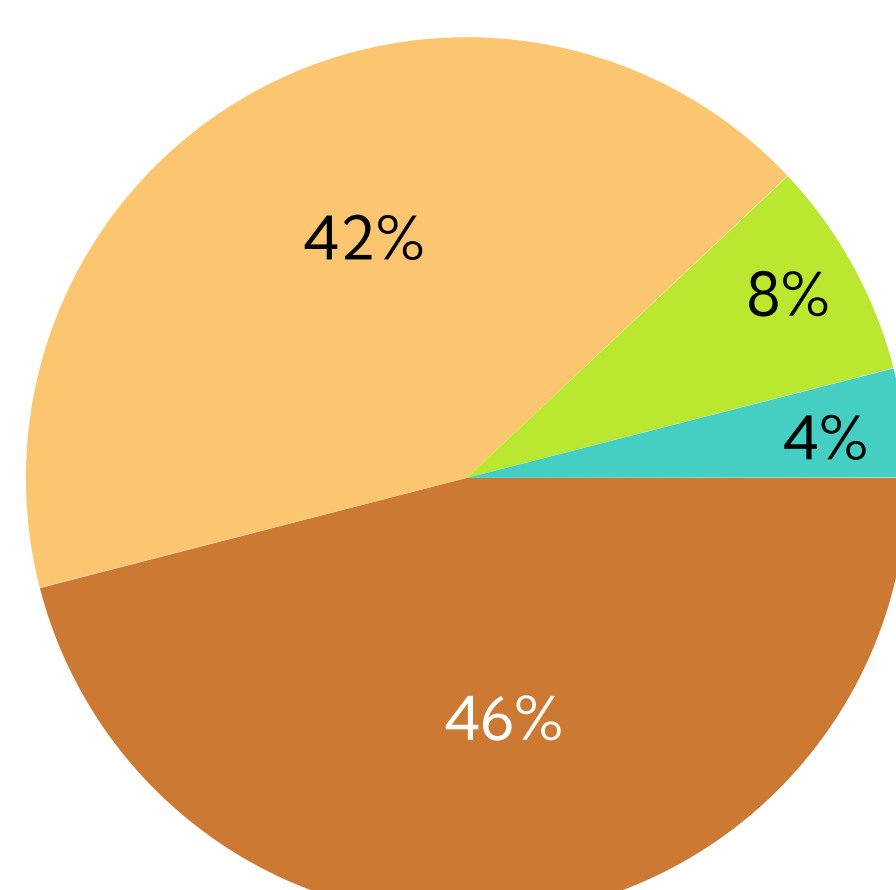
Sri Lanka ranks third as a supplier of dried coconuts and crude coconut oil to the EU in 2021, respectively 9% and 1%

Fresh/inner shell coconuts imported in the EU in 2021 mainly originate from Côte d'Ivoire (51%), Viet Nam (35%) and Thailand (7%)

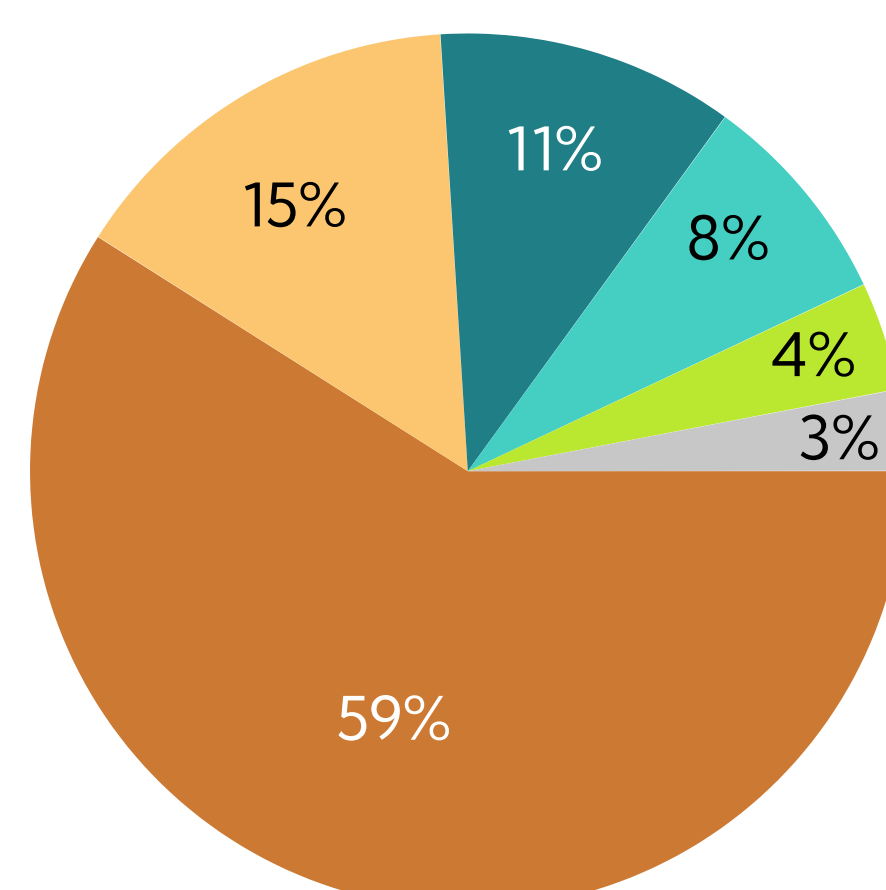
Top 5 EU27 + UK recipients of Sri Lanka exports



Top 5 EU27 + UK recipients of Indonesia exports



Top 5 EU27 + UK recipients of Philippines exports



Legend: Italy (dark teal), France (light green), Netherlands (brown), Spain (teal), Germany (orange), Slovenia (red), Other EU27+UK countries (grey).

Note: Relevant coconut products include Desiccated/dried coconuts (HS 080111), Fresh coconuts/inner shell (080112) and Crude coconut oil (HS 15131110).

In 2020, the top 7 producing countries **comprised 87% of coconuts production worldwide**. Other countries with **more than 1% share** in global coconut production are Mexico, Thailand, and Malaysia.

**Coconut is mostly grown in tropical island nations.** While Indonesia (27%), India (24%), and the Philippines (24%) were the largest global producers of coconuts in 2020, the **Philippines are the leading exporter** to the EU market.







# Coconut

## Environmental Risks

**18.33  
species**

are threatened by  
coconut crop per  
million tons of oil  
produced

The main biodiversity threats from coconut production relate to its risk of exacerbating extinction rates of unique species.

The number of species threatened by the coconut crop per million tons of oil produced is estimated higher for coconut than for instance for palm oil, olives, and soybeans. It has been a contested issue whether there has been higher biodiversity loss connected to coconut production.

**Biodiversity  
Loss**



IUCN lists **66 species**, including vertebrates, plants, arthropods, and mollusks, for which coconut production is the main threat.

Coconut production occurs mostly in tropical island countries, where it **has been linked to historical tropical deforestation**, such as in Indonesia and Sri Lanka. Most coconut producing countries were forested in the past, but **in 2015 only an average of 11.2% of their land area was "primary forest"**. In some of these countries, coconut expansion was the main driver of deforestation.

**9,159  
ha**

of deforestation  
risk was calculated  
for coconuts in  
Indonesia in 2018

**Land use &  
Deforestation**



**1.78  
kg CO<sub>2</sub>eq**

is the carbon  
footprint per kg of  
coconuts

Carbon emissions linked to coconut production seem to be currently **moderate**, since most coconut-linked deforestation already occurred in the past.

**Emissions**



The **water footprint** of coconuts seems **relatively low**, with outdated data (1996–2005) referring to 2,687 m<sup>3</sup>/ton.

When coconut shells are burned and used for cooking by local smallholder coconut farmers, this may result in **dangerous waste and increases air pollution**.

Farmers are also monocropping in coconut production, leading to depletion of the soil and the need for increased use of **chemical fertilisers**.

**2,687  
m<sup>3</sup>/ton**

is the global  
average water  
footprint of  
coconuts

**Water use &  
Contamination**





# Coconut

## Social Risks

### Labour conditions

Coconut farmers in Indonesia and the Philippines are among the poorest of farmers in their countries. They receive low wages and often live **below poverty line**.

**60%**

of small scale coconut farmers live on or below the poverty line of 20,000 Philippine pesos (about EUR 350) per year

### Child Labour

There are indications that **child labour** occurs in the production of coconuts in the Philippines.

### Health & Safety

**3.4%**

of all injuries at the surgical department of a Solomon Islands hospital was linked to coconut palm

Harvesting of coconuts in high trees is a dangerous activity. There are reports of workers on coconut plantations in the Philippines **falling from the trees** at the time of harvest.

### Corruption

While corruption is not exclusive to coconut production, there are indications that **corrupt practices** occur in coconut production in the Philippines. This may carry **reputational risks** for coconut and coconut derived products coming from the Philippines.

**33**

is the corruption score of the Philippines on the Corruption Perceptions Index (0=highly corrupt)