

ORGANIC PERSONAL WELLNESS AND COSMETIC PRODUCTS USING PILI OIL, THE PHILIPPINES

Rosalia Tan

INNOVATION

Rosalia Tan has found novel uses for the nuts of the pili tree, *Canarium ovatum*, indigenous to the Philippines. She found that the oil extracted from the pili pulp can be used as a base ingredient for personal care and cosmetic products.

The resin extracted from the bark of the pili tree is processed and used as a fixative for perfumes. The resin is now distilled locally to obtain an essential oil, providing an additional source of income for the local communities.

ROSALIA TAN



Rosalia Tan is one of the founding members of the Organic Producers & Trade Association (OPTA) in the Philippines, and was its president during 1995-2006. She was a board member of the National Organic Agricultural Board

representing the private sector. Thanks to OPTA's tireless lobby, The Organic Agricultural Act of 2010, (also known as R.A 10068), was passed by the Philippine Congress.

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DESCRIPTION

The Pili tree, *Canarium ovatum*, is a tropical, fruit bearing tree that is endemic to the Philippines and other South-East Asian countries. In the Philippines, it is indigenous to the Bicol region in the Luzon island, and is commercially cultivated mainly for the Pili nut which is used for snacks, desserts, and other food products.



Unripe pili fruits

After the extraction of oil from the pili pulp, the residues can be used as substrate for mushrooms, or be used as animal feeds or fertilizer. The shells of the nuts can be used as an exfoliant ingredient. It can also be used to make charcoal. After the distillation of the gum resin, the residue can be used as an ingredient for varnish, while the hardened resin can be used for rig rapping to prevent erosion.

RELEVANCE

By utilizing and maximizing the other untapped resources of the pili tree and building enterprises around the products, Rosalia has provided an additional source of income for the locals of the Bicol region. She also helped establish the PhilPILI (Philippines Pili Industry League Inc.), in an effort to help organize local farmers to develop good production practices based on scientific research. Through this business partnership with the locals, the pili pulp, previously considered a waste product in the harvesting of pili nuts, is now gathered and used for the production of pili oil, contributing to the decrease in pollutants in the surrounding areas.



Extracting the kernel manually

By maximizing the use of the often overlooked and undervalued parts of the pili tree, Rosalia has created jobs for locals, promoted environmental sustainability, promoted the use of organic personal wellness and cosmetic products for the consumers.