

Review of: "Coconut flower - market potential and future forecast in the Coconut Land (Bến Tre), Vietnam"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The article is good for popular science but lacks the depth of a good scientific review article and has some contradictions. A lot of work is needed to improve this article for publication.

Some general remarks:

- Much more resources need to be consulted as I doubt these 15 references (which are mostly about foodscience) cover the whole field.
- In the text the words honey, nectar, neera are used interchangeably, this makes it very confusing as some of these words also have a meaning such as honey which in this context can have more than one meaning.
- You sometimes mix flower and inflorescence which is confusing.
- There is a lack of references and 2009 is your most recent reference which is 14 years ago. If you want to show the current situation you will need more recent figures.
- The references should also be added in the text, your readers do not need to guess which fact correlates with which reference.
- The text is not always that clear to read.
- The text has some contradicting elements which really hurt the text.
- The figures are not referred to in the text.

Title:

- Personally I would change the title as the text is about the neera and less about the flower itself. Also the use of the "coconut land" is a bit strange for me as I don't know the area. An alternative: Coconut neera - current and future market potential in Ben Tre region of Vietnam.
- Title also does not fully cover the text as in my opinion only little time is spent on the region.

There are some issues in your abstract which I do not fully understand:

- How is honey made from the sap? (or is this the "honey" meaning it makes itself?)
- I don't understand the term geolocation marketing strategies, I suggest using an alternative wording. Also I don't really

see it coming back in the text

Issues with paragraph “Overview in the coconut land (Xu Dua):”

- Similar to the manuscript title, the use of coconut land is somewhat strange for me and I suggest changing the title.
- The name Xu dua, used in the title, does not appear in the text.
- Can you give a source for the numbers (60,000 ha; 600 million)?
- An average of 12 flowers... I think you mean inflorescences?
- With honey production you mean neera production?
- What do you mean with nourished? application of fertilizer?
- You give examples in the abstract for uses but now you don't give them please provide some.
- you don't refer to the map (figure 1) in the first paragraph. the map also uses . instead of ,

Issues with paragraph “Coconut nectar has numerous...”:

- I am overall skeptical of health claims of products. I suggest a nutrition expert reviews this.
- Figure 2 is not referred to in the text.

Issues with “The indigenous knowledge method”:

- I suggest a change in title as this does not read fluently.
- State the factors that influence production don't just talk about them.
- Kinda obvious that it doesn't produce coconuts since you remove the flower to harvest the neera
- You mention “During this period the tree is well cared for and produces an abundant yield”. I think this statement makes a lot of assumptions and is far from realistic as yield is also determined by other factors such as weather pests etc. which cannot be controlled.
- I need references with the comparison between sugarcane.
- So neera is 3 times as profitable as coconut themselves? then why still sell copra or coconuts?

Issues with “techniques for exploiting coconut nectar”:

- I would not call sugar healthy.
- This section is confusing: Select the 4th inflorescence to collect the 3rd why not immediately select the 3rd? also how are you counting 1 2 3?
- Plastic vessels in the plant?
- Sometimes you attach your units and sometimes you don't.
- Collect nectar for 1 month is not a correct sentence.
- This box also contradicts your earlier statement where you claimed 9 months instead of 6.
- No referring to figure 3.
- Your 6-7 years old palms contradicts with your earlier statement that the palms should already be giving fruit for at

least 6 years.

- A small cut is still a cut.
- Earlier you mentioned tapp it twice a day now only once ?

Issues with “Use coconut nectar to produce some...”:

- young coco flower corn is a new term you introduce which is confusing.
- Which minerals and is that weight % dry wet?
- Health benefits that should be reviewed by a food scientist.
- you stated that this process involves several steps, which is a bit obvious since you just explained them. Better to post this first.

Issues with the conclusions:

- Explain how normal production is in a circular economy?
- Earlier you also mentioned coconut sold not only copra.
- Africa and Pacific ocean island are not countries.
- It is strange to state that you have to look elsewhere when you first mentioned all the indiginion knowledge you had.
- What are nipa coconuts?
- 100,000 liter per ha??
- you repeat some parts

Issues with the References:

- What has garden tourism to do with this article?
- Also references should be added in the text.
- Lack of references