



## Research and Innovation to Enhance Productivity and Value Addition in Palmyrah –Based Industries

# Northern Investment Summit 2026

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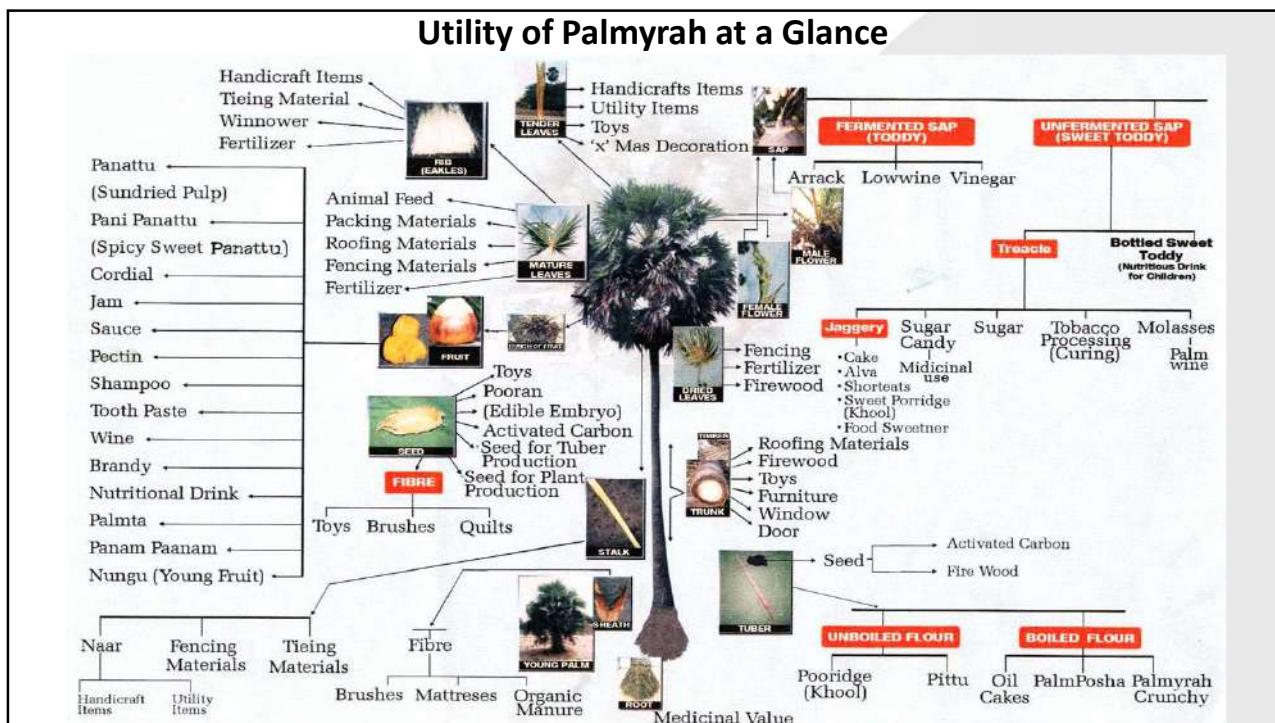
Ministry of Plantation and Community Infrastructure

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### Introduction:

- Sri Lanka's plantation industry—Tea, Rubber, Coconut, Cashew, Minor crops, Kithul, and Palmyrah plays a vital role in generating national income and earning foreign exchange through exports.
- Among these, coconut, kithul, and palmyrah fall under the palm category. Notably, palmyrah is unique to the Northern Province and holds economic and cultural significance in that region.
- Palmyrah offers high-value applications from food and nutrition to pharmaceuticals and lifestyle products leveraging its natural strengths to create scalable investment opportunities and significant export potential for global markets.
- Unlocking the Palmyrah sector can drive sustainable economic recovery in the Northern Province through a unique and underexploited natural asset.
- Sri Lanka has around 12 million Palmyrah palms, mostly in the Northern and Eastern provinces, providing a secure raw material supply and unique investment opportunity.
- The Northern Province of Sri Lanka is estimated to have approximately 10 million Palmyrah palms, with the potential to generate annual income exceeding USD 1000 million( LKR 300,000 million).

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### Palmyrah Development Board (PDB)

- The Palmyrah Development Board (PDB) which originally constituted by Gazette notification of 18th August 1978 published in terms of Amendment No 24 of 1975 to the Sri Lanka Coconut Development Act No 46 of 1971 to carryout all functions in relation to Palmyrah plantations. Subsequently, PDB comes under the purview of Ministry of plantation and Community Infrastructure by Gazette notification No. 2412/08 dated on 25.11.2024.

#### Key Focus Areas of the Palmyrah Development Board (PDB):

- Development and sustainable utilization of Palmyrah resources
- Technology transfer programs - handicrafts, sap, pulp, toddy (naar), timber, and other innovations
- Enhancement of Palmyrah-based production processes
- Strengthening the marketing network through Katpaham sales outlets
- Research, quality control, and standardization of Palmyrah products
- Improving the livelihoods of communities dependent on Palmyrah

## Palmyrah Research Institute (PRI)

### The roles of the institution include:

- Providing accredited laboratory testing services to ensure Palmyrah products meet both national and international quality and regulatory standards.
- Conducting applied research focused on the Palmyrah industry and scaling the findings for industrial implementation.
- Introducing innovative technologies to modernize and enhance the Palmyrah industry.
- Establishing and maintaining collaborations with national organizations (e.g., SLAB, ITI, CRI, German Tech, VTA, national universities) and international organizations (e.g., PTB, international universities, FAPAS).
- Disseminating research outcomes through publications, training programs, exhibitions, and workshops.

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### Testing services



### Trainings



### Research Collaborations



### Technology Transfer <sup>6</sup>



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### Potential and Prospects for Palmyrah Sap based products

- Total sap produced is approx. 80 million bottles based on the assumption that 8,000 active tappers harvest daily 50 litres over a time period of 150 days per year.
- If used for Jaggery production , sale value from Jaggery production would be approximately USD 53.33 million( LKR 16,000 million).
- The sale values from bottled toddy is in the range of USD 93.33 million (LKR 28,000 million)
- If sap is used exclusively for arrack production , then expected return would be USD 200 million (LKR. 60,000 million) per annum.

### Palmyrah Arrack

The Palmyrah toddy has been used to produce a distilled alcoholic beverage called palmyrah arrack, similar to the coconut arrack from coconut toddy.

- Thikkam distillery was established on 1984 at Pointpedro. The maximum daily supply arrack was 1750 Liters during 1990. Presently palmyrah development Board has taken the initiation to reactivate the distillery.



Fig. 19. Patent Still at Thikkam Distillery (Sri Lanka)



Fig. 20. Pot Still at Chankannel Distillery (Sri Lanka)

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- In addition to the Thikkam distillery two other small distilleries, one at Chankanai (Valikaamam)and another at Varani produce palmyrah distillate in 1992. These were pot stills, each with a capacity of 1800 Liters and work in two shifts handling about 3600 Liters of toddy a day. 400 Liters of palmyrah Arrack could be produced daily.



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### Palmyrah Fruit Based Products

The net amount of pulp available per season would be ( approx. ) 10,000 metric tonnes .

If used for bottled pulp production , 10 million bottles of bottled pulp can be produced . The sale value through bottled pulp would be USD 6.66 million (LKR. 2000 million) .

Alternate use: the pulp could be used for cordials, Jam and ready to serve drinks after debittering.

The sale value from the product would be USD 26.66 million(LKR.8000 million).

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### Palmyrah Tuber Based Products

Assuming 50 % germination of seeds 150 million tubers are expected and 2500 metric tonnes of flour can be produced annually.

This at the present market price would yield USD 9 million (LKR. 2700 million) .

If tuber flour is converted to value added products, sale value could be increased by another USD 18 million (LKR 3600 million).

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### Palmyrah Handicraft Products

Exporters from Sri Lanka cater to international markets with a wide range of Palmyrah handicrafts, including baskets, mats, trays, and décor, positioning these products as eco-friendly and sustainable lifestyle alternatives.

Handicrafts from Palmyrah leaves represent one of the strongest inclusive enterprise models, generating over USD 333.33 million (LKR. 1000 million) annually, while supporting women-led SMEs and rural employment.

Global trade data indicates Sri Lanka is among the top three global exporters of palm leaf products, with 325 shipments of palm leaf exports recorded, shipped to countries including the USA and UK.

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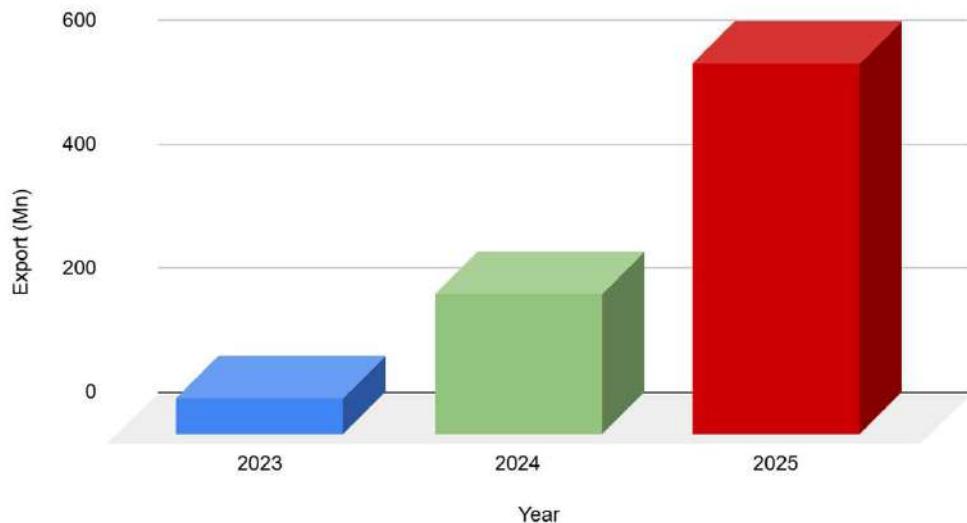
### Palmyrah Fibre based Products

Approximately 2 million young palms are available for fibre. At the rate of 5kg per palm, approximately 10,000 metric tonnes could be produced over a period of 10 years.

At current market price of LKR. 400 per Kg of processed fibre, the net sales per annum would be USD 1.33 million (LKR. 400 million), if converted into value added products such as brushes and others USD 4 million (LKR. 1200 million) could be added to the sale value.

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Export (Mn) vs Year



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### EXPORT DETAILS OF PALMYRAH - SECTOR

#### EXPORT FIGURES - FROM - Month of January to December 2025

ITEM	HS CODE	LKR	USD
Palmyrah Pulp	2008.99.90	6,468,000.00	21,632.11
Odiyal Flour	1106.20.90	4,734,400.00	15,834.11
Pulukodiyal Flour	1106.20.90	878,080.00	2,936.72
Pulukodiyal Chips round	0714.90.00	7,379,200.00	24,679.60
Pulukodiyal Chips Seeval	0714.90.00	9,315,600.00	31,155.85
Sugar Candy	1702.90.29	4,333,000.00	14,491.64
Jaggary	1702.90.29	2,039,040.00	6,819.53
Palmyrah Yam	1702.90.10	1,470,000.00	4,916.39
Pinattu	2106.90.99	1,341,000.00	4,484.95
Palmyrah Toddy	2206.00.91	96,292,984.80	322,050.12
Palmyrah Fiber	9603.10	465,724,779.48	1,557,607.96
<b>Total</b>		<b>599,976,084.28</b>	<b>2,006,608.98</b>

## Main Producers of Palmyrah Products & Market Opportunities

### Key Producers

- **Palm Development Co-operative Societies (PDCS)**
- Largest producers of Palmyrah-based products
- 39 PDCS in the Northern Province with 8,000 active members
- 20 PDCS located in Jaffna District
- Major products:
  - Jaggery, bottled toddy
  - Bottled pulp, panatu, pani-panatu
  - Tuber flour, Boiled tuber flour, sugar candy
- **Palmyrah Development Board (PDB)**
- Second-largest producer by volume
- Produces 20+ diversified Palmyrah-based products
- Plays a key role in product development, processing, and standardization

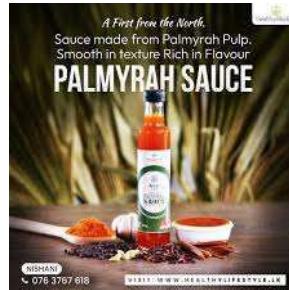
### Market Opportunities

- Strong demand at local, regional, and international levels
- Domestic markets: traditional foods, Handicrafts & fibre products
- Regional & export markets:
  - Jaggery, sugar candy, bottled pulp
  - Bottled toddy, Arrack
  - Tuber flour, Boiled tuber and flour
  - Handicrafts , Fibre based products & eco-friendly products
- Examples of companies actively engaged in the export of Palmyrah-based products.
  - Rabeena , Colombo( Fruit pulp to Europe)
  - VSS Distributors, Jaffna ( Toddy , Jaggey, Arrack and pulp)
  - TATAS (Pvt) Ltd, Jaffna ( Toddy, Arrack)
  - Ravi Industries Ltd , Ekala, Ja-Ela ( Fibre based products)
  - JNL (Pvt) Ltd, Vavunia, Handicrafts, Toddy, Jaggery
  - Jaffna Horticulture (Pvt) Ltd, Tuber based products

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## Technology Transfer

- Ice cream – **Alerics Dairy Products Ltd**
- Palmyrah fruit pulp Sauce- **Thinnai Foods**
- Cookies- **Aaruthal HR development Co-op society**
- Fruit flavoured palm wine- **Jaffna Horticulture Pvt Ltd**
- Palmyrah fruit pulp based Tooth Paste- **Nature win pvt Ltd**



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## Palm Moisturizing Cream

- All organic
- Yields soft, supple and glowing skin

### Ingredients

- Palmyra fruit pulp
- Cold-pressed virgin coconut oil
- Beeswax
- Vaseline
- Glycerol
- Fragrance



### Equipment

- Balance
- Double boiler
- Industrial centrifuge



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## Ayurvedic Bathing Soap



### Ingredients

- Palmyrah fruit pulp
- Soapberry nuts
- Rock salt
- Virgin coconut oil
- NaOH
- Fragrance
- Red Ixora flowers/ Shoe flowers/ Aloe vera gel
- Vitamin E capsules

### Equipment

- Balance
- Industrial hot plate
- Grinding machine
- Industrial beater

No free  
alkaline  
content &  
Natural

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**PALMYRAH CHARCOAL HAND WASH**

Activated Charcoal Hand wash soak up dirt and bacteria and leave your hand cleaner & acts as natural shield ensuring hands protect against germs.

**Ingredients:**

Activated charcoal, Cocamide DEA, Sodium Lauryl Sulphate, Xanthan gum, Propylene glycol, Vitamin E, Fragrance oil, Potassium phosphate monobasic and Water

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## SHOE POLISH

Activated Charcoal shoe polish for Shine, nourishment and protection and water resistance; extending foot ware's life.

**Ingredients:**  
Activated charcoal, Coconut oil, Turpentine and Paraffin wax

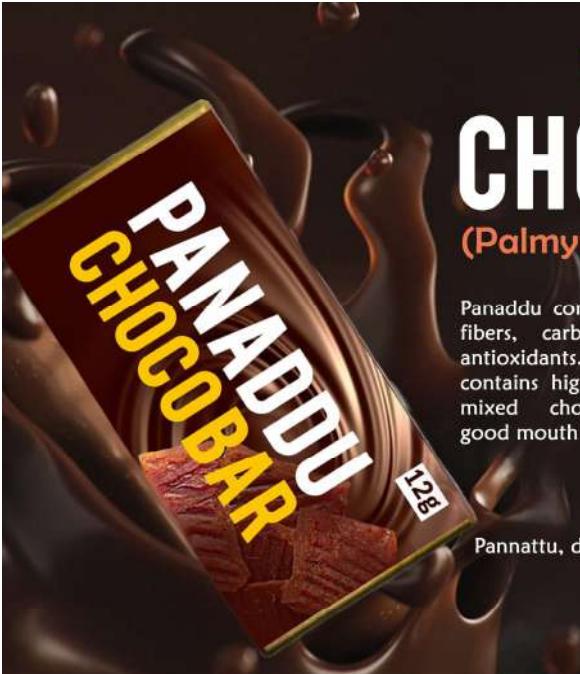


**Charcoal  
SHOE POLISH**

**BLACK**

**Ingredients:**  
Activated charcoal, Coconut oil, Turpentine and Paraffin wax

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**Panaddu**  
**CHOCOBAR**  
**(Palmyrah fruit pulp leather)**

Panaddu contains substantial quantities of dietary fibers, carbohydrates, minerals, vitamins and antioxidants. The Palmyrah dried fruit leather contains high medicinal properties. The panaddu mixed chocobar has low bitterness and good mouth feel.

**Ingredients**  
 Pannattu, desiccated coconut, Coco powder, Sugar, Margarine, Water

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# PALMITE

Palmyrah fruit pulp contains substantial quantities of dietary fibers, carbohydrates, minerals, vitamins and antioxidants. Yeast extract contains 100% protein. It is used as an anti-hypoglycemic agent. It has good mouth feel and reasonable price.



**Ingredients**  
 Yeast extract, vegetable extract, Palmyrah fruit pulp, salt

## HEALTHY BREADSTICKS USING PALMYRAH RESOURCES AND GARLIC



The breadsticks are formulated with 50% debittered Palmyrah tuber flour, treacle and garlic oil. They are tasty, nutritious and healthy. They have much higher fibre content, total phenolic content and antioxidants than the breadsticks made of wheat flour and white sugar.

### Palmyrah Ready to Serve Drink



#### Ingredients

- Palmyrah fruit pulp
- Sugar
- Water
- Citric acid
- Xanthan gum
- Sodium metabisulphite

#### Equipment

- Pulp extractor
- Homogenizer
- Weighing balance
- Digital Thermocouple
- pasteurizer
- Bottle sealer

No artificial  
color or flavor  
FIBER-RICH

## Fruit Mincemeat



**Dried fruits**

- Mango
- Raisin
- Dates
- Banana

**Ingredients**

- Palmyrah fruit pulp leather
- Dried fruits
- Butter
- Treacle
- Sugar
- Citric acid

**Equipment**

- Pulp extractor
- Oven/ Solar drier
- Leather Cutter
- Water bath pasteurizer

**RICH IN Anti-oxidants & high calories**

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## SOUP MIX & SOUP CUBE



**DRIED vegetables**

- Cassava
- Onion
- Carrot
- Long bean
- Moringa

**Ingredients**

- Tuber flour
- Dried vegetables
- Chilli powder
- Salt
- Tamarind
- Rice

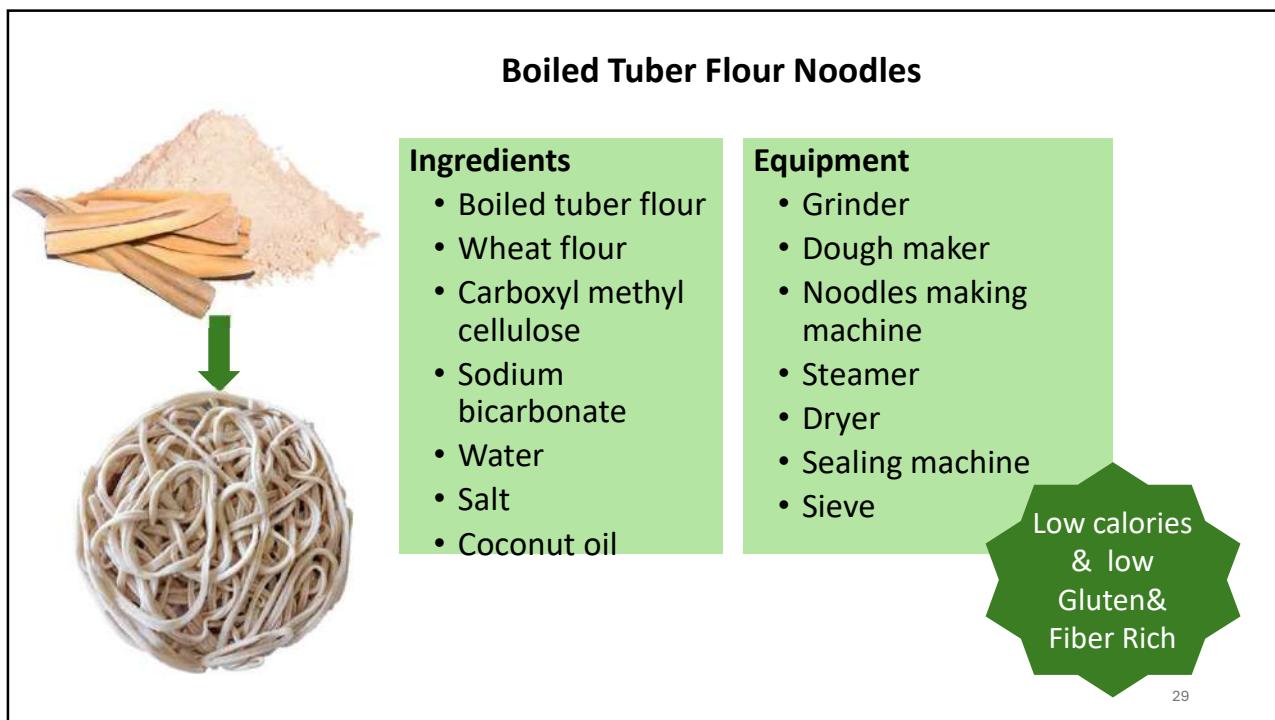
**Equipment**

- Oven/ Solar drier
- Grinding machine
- Sieve

**RICH IN Anti-oxidants & Fibers**

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### Boiled Tuber Flour Noodles



The image shows a green downward-pointing arrow pointing from a pile of dried, light-colored tuber flour and some cinnamon sticks at the top to a large pile of white, tangled boiled tuber flour noodles at the bottom.

**Ingredients**

- Boiled tuber flour
- Wheat flour
- Carboxyl methyl cellulose
- Sodium bicarbonate
- Water
- Salt
- Coconut oil

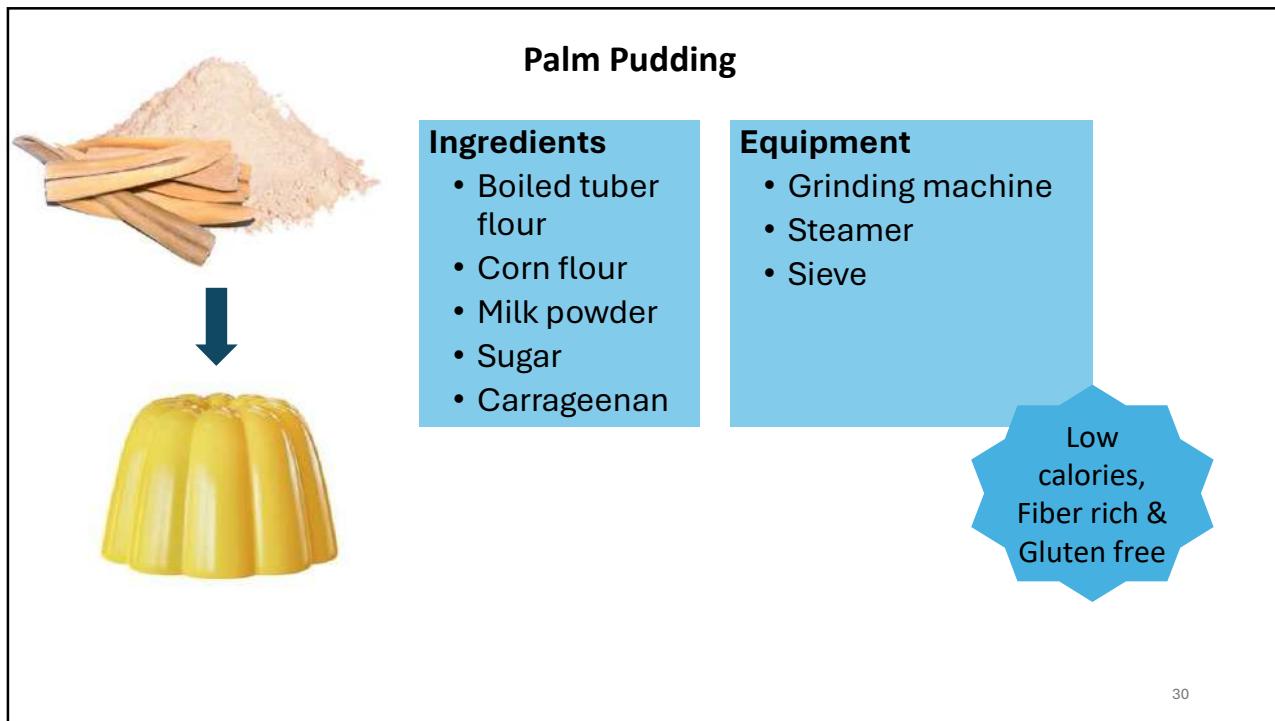
**Equipment**

- Grinder
- Dough maker
- Noodles making machine
- Steamer
- Dryer
- Sealing machine
- Sieve

Low calories & low Gluten& Fiber Rich

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### Palm Pudding



The image shows a dark blue downward-pointing arrow pointing from a pile of dried, light-colored tuber flour and some cinnamon sticks at the top to a single, yellow, translucent palm pudding at the bottom.

**Ingredients**

- Boiled tuber flour
- Corn flour
- Milk powder
- Sugar
- Carrageenan

**Equipment**

- Grinding machine
- Steamer
- Sieve

Low calories, Fiber rich & Gluten free

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### Palm Jelly

**Ingredients**

- Palmyrah fruit pulp
- Sugar
- Citric acid
- Carrageenan

**Equipment**

- Pulp extractor
- Concentrator

RICH IN minerals

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### Cashew Apple-palm Wine

**Ingredients**

- Cashew apple
- Palmyrah fruit pulp
- Sugar
- Gelatin
- Bakery
- Yeast
- SMS

**Equipment**

- Blending machine
- Fermenter
- Pasteurizer
- Weighing balance
- Digital thermocouple
- Pulp extracting machine
- Brix meter
- pH meter
- Bottle sealer

RICH IN ANTI-OXIDANTS

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