

## New milk alternative from RTD coconut, mungbean will be out soon

The Industrial Technology Development Institute (DOST-ITDI), as one of the prime movers of Science and Technology (S&T) in the Philippines, adheres to its mandate of generating new knowledge, technologies, and innovations, providing technical services establishing advanced laboratory facilities to help local industries and entrepreneurs.

In recent years, consumers' preferences in the beverage industry have been changing, and there seems to be an increasing partiality for 'natural-based' drinks. Inspired by this growing demand for health drinks and the market potential of ready-to-drink (RTD) beverages, ITDI developed its own RTD coconut-mungbean using coconut cream or *gata* and mungbean or *monggo*.



Primarily made for disaster mitigation purposes, the beverage is also a good alternative for milk and chocolate drinks, juices, sodas, and similar products. It is nutritious and is shelf-stable for one year.

The new beverage is now being geared up to fill market shelves after passing the first market acceptability test done in collaboration with Argao Guilang Tableya, a manufacturer of 100% pure cacao tableya in Cebu City, and Livegreen International, Inc., an organic vegetable producer in Quezon City.

The market acceptability test results showed a positive response for appearance, taste, and texture, and respondents also showed a willingness to purchase the product.

As the next step before market entry, a more thorough market testing will be conducted to verify its acceptability further and prove its commercial viability as an alternative product.

Other than coconut-mungbean drink, DOST-ITDI also offers a wide selection of income-boosting technologies that support the country's sustainable development goals, catering to the needs of the different industries, particularly Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). (DDGotis\ ITDI S&T Media Service)

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