# Corals

Each strand of coral radiates with an exceptional glow, symbolising the intricate structures that inspire every fibre of our being.

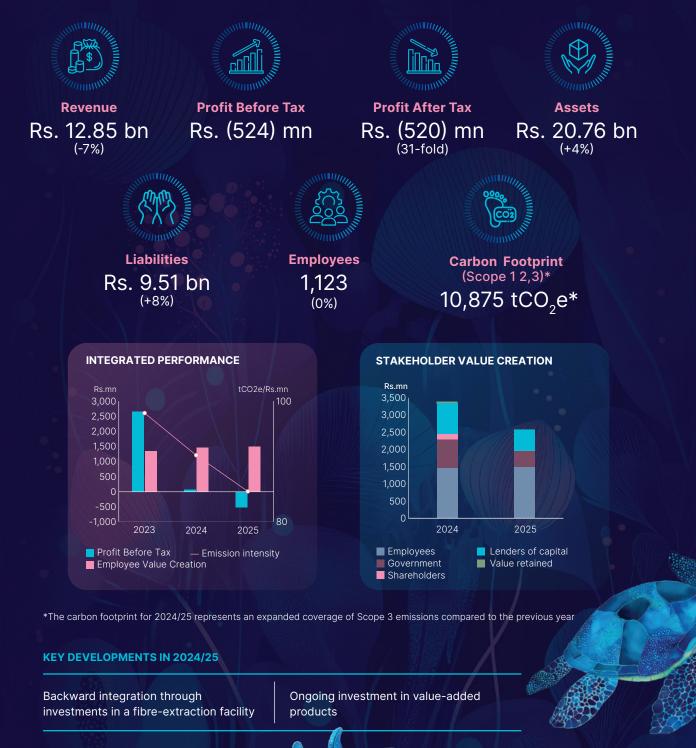


The Sector is one of Sri Lanka's leading exporters of traditional and value-added coconut fibre products, catering to a global network of retailers, industries and households through a wide portfolio of innovative and sustainable solutions.



Insights from Sector Managing Director Scan to view

# **HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024/25**



Just like bioluminescent organisms that adapt to their environment, illuminate the depths, and sustain their delicate ecosystems, the Sector continues to evolve and adapt, and thrive sustainably in an ever-changing world.

#### **EVOLVE WITH INNOVATION**

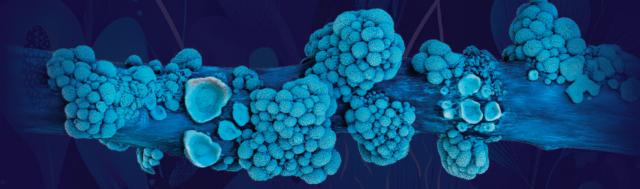
 Investments in R&D aimed towards developing innovative solutions catering to new applications across industries

# INDUSTRY FORERUNNER

- One of Sri Lanka's leading coconut-fibre exporters
- USD 42 mn export revenue generated

#### **Presidential Export Awards 2024**

- Bonterra Best Exporter Award Coconut Fiber Products Category
- Hayleys Fibre PLC Best Exporter Award-Coconut Substrate Products Category



# ADVANCE SUSTAINABILITY



Growing media solutions which facilitate plant growth in limited spaces by providing suitable substrates for plant growth Erosion control solutions which preserve soil quality and support agriculture and vegetation A range of brushware and floor covering catering to the needs of industries and households Horticulture products which encourage cultivation and home gardening in households



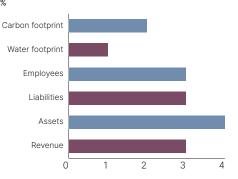
#### SECTOR OVERVIEW

The Group's Eco Solutions Sector is a pioneering and leading manufacturer of value-added coconut fibre products, offering an array of tailor-made, innovative and environmentally sustainable solutions across several product categories. Through the procurement of coconut coir fibre from a network of local suppliers which are subsequently transformed and exported across the world, the Sector generates significant local value addition

#### SECTOR OPERATIONS

Sub-Sector	Revenue	PBT
	Contribution to Sector (%)	Rs. mn
<b>Eco fibre</b> Manufacture a range of value-added coir fibre products	64	63
<b>Brushware</b> Pioneer in the brush market, catering to both the local and international markets	17	(237)
Floor covering and mattresses Manufacturer of coir, rubber, flocked door mats and PU mattresses	19	347

#### **RELEVANCE TO GROUP**





#### **OPERATING ENVIRONMENT**

The global coir market has recorded consistent growth in recent years, fuelled by the increasing demand for sustainable materials and the rising adoption of coir in agriculture and horticulture applications such as erosion control and hydroponics. Meanwhile, the limited availability of land and the increasing prevalence towards healthy diets have driven the demand for growing media products. The global market also remains intensely competitive, underscoring the need for manufacturers to focus on innovation and valueadded product propositions. Key dynamics which shaped the operating landscape during the year are summarised below:

	<b>EXCHANGE RATE</b> <b>6%</b> Y-o-y appreciation of the Sri Lankan Rupee (Monthly average rate)	<ul> <li>COCONUT SUPPLY</li> <li>-12%</li> <li>Decline in Sri Lanka's coconut production</li> <li>+200%</li> <li>Increase in average price of coconut husk</li> </ul>	GEOPOLITICAL DYNAMICS +145% Increase in intra-Asia global freight rates 1.5 times Prolonged lead times	FORECAST GROWTH 7% CAGR (2023-2030) Growing media products 6% CAGR (2023-2030) Natural fibre carpets
Description	The appreciation during 2024 was driven by Improved foreign exchange liquidity and para-tariffs on top of existing customs duties.	Limited application of fertilizer, climate implications and spread of diseases led to an acute shortage of coconut and its by products	Global shipping costs surged in 2024, driven by disruptions in major maritime routes and rising operational costs	Demand for growing media is expected to be driven by limited availability of arable land, popularity of home gardening and growth in the agriculture and horticulture industries.
Impact	H	H	H	Μ
Implications	<ul> <li>Adverse implications on volume and market share</li> <li>Reduced competitiveness in the global market</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Sharp increase in raw material costs, pressurising margins</li> </ul>	- Adverse implications on costs and profit margins	<ul> <li>Strategic emphasis on innovation and value- added growing media products</li> </ul>

H-High, M-Medium, L-Low / Blue circle represents adverse effect while green circle represents positive effect

#### Market risks

Exchange rate volatility and potential impacts on global competitiveness and margins

# Strategic response

→ Proactive monitoring of exchange rate movements and timely pricing revisions

# Sustainability-related risks

# CRRO 3

Physical climate risks including rainfall and temperature have a direct impact on availability of coconut fibre

# Strategic response

→ Backward integration and supplier diversification

# **RISK LANDSCAPE**

# Market risks

Geopolitical dynamics could impact demand conditions, global shipping and freight rates

# Strategic response

→ Strengthen customer relationships through deeper penetration

#### Market risks

Competitive pressures from regional manufacturers and intensifying price pressure

# Strategic response

- → Enhance value-added portfolio through investments in R&D
- → Efficiency improvements and automation
- → Optimise business model through curtailment of loss leaders

#### Sustainability-related opportunities

#### SRRO 3

Stringency of environmental regulations and increasing prevalence towards sustainable products

#### Strategic response

 New product development and market expansion in growing media products

# **OPPORTUNITIES**

#### Market opportunities

Environmental and social considerations are increasingly featuring in customers purchasing decisions

# Strategic response

→ Unlocking growth through the Sector's ESG strategy 'Entwine'

# STRATEGY AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION

The Sector's strategic priorities for the year were consistent with the approach adopted in recent years which sought to strengthen the Sector's position in non-traditional markets and drive innovation towards value-added products. The prevalent coconut shortage has also prompted the Sector to pursue backward integration and these efforts were strengthened during the year as the Sector sought to secure its coconut supply chain.

# MARKET EXPANSION

How we performed: The Sector has made inroads into several non-traditional markets in the North Africa and CIS regions, securing considerable market share in specialised products.

#### New customers acquired



#### About this KPI and why we use it:

This KPI helps assess the strength of the Sector's market expansion and customer acquisition strategy, evaluating marketing effectiveness, brand growth and revenue potential.

#### **Resource allocation**

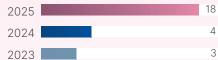
Sales and marketing expenditure: **Rs. 344 mn** 

#### **Strategic KPIs/ Pre-financials**

# INNOVATION

**How we performed:** The Sector focused on developing specialised and technical floor covering solutions catering to specific industrial requirements, with the aim of gradually expanding its valueadded product portfolio.

# New products developed



# About this KPI and why we use it:

We use this KPI to assess revenue potential as well as the Sector's competitiveness, market responsiveness and brand differentiation.

#### **Resource allocation**

Investment in research & development: **Rs. 1.70 mn** 

# SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

**How we performed:** The Sector commenced construction of a fibre processing facility. Progress was also made in securing new suppliers outside the traditional coconut triangle.

> 96 New suppliers added

# About this KPI and why we use it:

This KPI is used to assess the effectiveness of the Sector's supplier diversification strategy and supplier relationship management.

#### **Resource allocation**

Investment in backward integration: **Rs. 600 mn** 

Payments to suppliers:

# Rs. 5.38 bn

#### INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Subdued performance: The Sector's performance was pressured by the dual challenges of an appreciating Sri Lankan Rupee and the acute shortage of coconuts, which in turn led to a surge in raw material costs. As a result, the Sector's Revenue declined by 7% y-o-y, with Loss Before Tax amounting to Rs.523.92 mn during the year, reflecting a volume decline of 4%. Profitability margins were impacted by the difficulties in passing on cost increases to customers given the intensely price competitive nature of several products in key verticals. Against this backdrop, the Sector placed strategic focus on driving innovation-led differentiation, acquiring customers in new markets and backward integration to mitigate the impacts of supply chain disruptions.

Sub-sector performance: The Eco fibre sub-segment recorded a year of subdued performance during the year, reflecting global dynamics and competitive pressures. Meanwhile, the Brushware sub-segment's performance was adversely affected by the escalating raw material costs and the unfavourable exchange rate dynamics which pressured profitability margins. The performance of the Floor covering and mattress subsegment was also below expectations with the appreciation of the exchange rate rendering Sri Lankan manufacturers uncompetitive in comparison to its regional counterparts. Subdued demand in the domestic mattress sector led to severe price competition, thereby adversely affecting the Sector's profitability.

Supply chain challenges: The

effective management of supply chain dynamics was a critical priority during the year, with the persistent decline in the country's coconut yield and crop presenting a significant risk to the Sector. Continued emphasis was placed on geographically diversifying supply chains and investing in backward integration. During the year, the Sector also commenced construction of a fibre extraction plant in Nikaweratiya; with a total investment of Rs.600 mn- the plant represents the largest of its kind in the Sector and is expected to fulfill around 35% of the Sector's total fibre requirement. During the year, the Sector also expanded capacity of its palmyrah fibre processing plant in Jaffna by nearly 30%, which will further support supply chain security in the short-to-medium term.

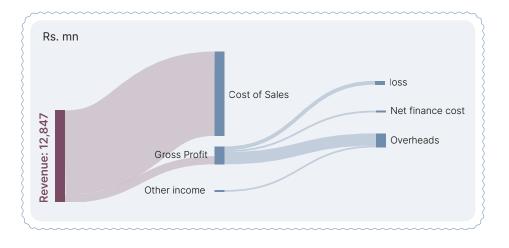
# SECTOR FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE



#### Value-added product propositions:

The Sector's R&D and innovation efforts have centered on gradually transitioning to a more value-added product portfolio, and considerable progress was made in the growing media, floor covering and value-added fibre segments. Key developments in recent years include specialised grow bags for strawberries and cherry tomatoes, high-performing twine, rubberised coir car seats and industrial cow mats which are showing considerable upside potential. The Sector is also driving efforts towards gradually modernising its manufacturing infrastructure and technology; during the year, several machines were introduced for higher productivity while a packing line was automated.

	Revenue (y-o-y) %	РВТ (у-о-у) %
Eco Fibre	-17	-91
Brushware	-3	42
Floor Coverings	-13	-75



# **PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS**

FINANCIAL METRICS	2025	2024	%	2023
Revenue	12,847	13,846	(7)	15,221
Earnings before interest and tax	(333)	384	-	2,430
Net finance income/(cost)	(250)	(357)	30	134
Profit before tax	(524)	68	-	2,656
Profit after tax	(520)	(17)	>(1,000)	2,471
Assets	20,763	19,911	4	18,694
Liabilities	9,508	8,775	8	7,722
Operating cash flow	387	(494)	-	3,555
OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS				
No. of manufacturing facilities	13	12	8	11
Production volumes (MT)	5,869	6,157	(4)	4,901
Capacity utilisation (%)				
Hayleys Fibre	50	65	(15)	52
Bonterra	70	69	1	76
Creative Polymats	50	43	7	57

# PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS

Revenue	Profit before tax	
Budget	Budget	
Actual	Actual	

ENVIR	DNMENTAL METRICS	2025	2024	%	2023
ent	Energy consumption (GJ)	111,495	132,477	(16)	97,445
commitment areas	Energy intensity (GJ/Revenue USD mn)	2,583	3,029	(15)	2,306
ommi areas	Carbon footprint (tCO2e)- Scope 1 & 2	3,648	3,997	(9)	4,147
0000	Emission intensity (tCO2e/Revenue USD mn)	85	91	(8)	98
ESG	Water intensity (m3/Revenue USD mn)	995	421	136	430
SASB cs	Water withdrawal from areas with baseline water stress**(%)	100	100	-	100
	Water consumption (m3)***	42,969	18,426	133	18,186
Relevant metri	Total weight of packaging (MT)	58,690	N/A	-	N/A

PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS			
Emission reduction		Reliance on renewable energy	
Target: 3% reduction		Target: 65%	
Actual: 9% reduction		Actual: 73%	

SOCIAL METRICS	2025	2024	%	2023
No. of employees	1,123	1,119	0	908
Revenue per employee (Rs. mn)	11	12	(8)	17
Remuneration per employee (Rs.mn)	1	1	-	2
Investment in CSR (Rs.mn)	3	3	-	28
No. of CSR beneficiaries	721	1,201	(40)	1,949
PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS				
Training Hours	Target: 50% increase in CSR beneficiaries			
	Actual: 721 beneficiaries			
Target: 40 Average training hours/per annum	n			
Actual: 2.9 Average training hours/per annum				

\*The Environmental and Social metrics disclosed above represent the Sector's most material impact areas, long-term ESG commitments and topics prescribed by the SASB Standard- Household & Personal Products Standard

\*\* The Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas places Sri Lanka in the medium to high risk category for water stress

\*\*\* Water consumption demonstrates a significant increase due to improved monitoring.

ESG integration: In line with the aspirations set out in its ESG Roadmap, Entwine, the Sector engaged in several interventions aimed towards fulfilling its 2030 targets. With talent migration remaining a challenge, focus was placed on recruiting and retaining high-performing talent. Succession planning remained a key priority during the year, while skill development for the year focused primarily on leadership development, marketing and other technical areas. Employees underwent health and safety training, reflecting the Sector's efforts to nurture a safety-conscious culture. On the environment pillar, key areas of focus included renewable energy, monitoring of water and biodiversity as illustrated below. During the year, the Sector's manufacturing facility in Katana also successfully obtained ISO 14001: Environmental Management Systems.

# Long-term ESG commitments

#### Accelerate climate action

- Conversion of furnace boilers in two Conversion to LED lighting in all factories

#### **Restore and regenerate nature**

Reforestation project in Nikaweratiya site

# Optimise resource footprint

- Improved mechanisms for water measurement
- Installation of push taps in selected locations

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#### Responsible work place

- Focus on health and safety training
- Leadership development

# **Partner progress**

- Distribution of school suppliers under the Sathdiyawara Going Beyond
- Ongoing financial assistance to supplier network

#### **Responsible and responsive** corporate citizenry

- Launch of 'Entwine' Sector-level ESG Roadmap
- ESG Governance and reporting mechanisms strengthened

# **PROSPECTS AND PLANS**

The long-term demand dynamics for the Sector remain favourable, particularly in categories such as growing media, erosion control and horticulture which are projected to see robust growth in line with increasing regulation and global focus on sustainability. For the Sector, raw material shortage remains the most critical risk in the short-term, requiring proactive inventory planning, supply chain diversification and backward integration. Competitive pressures from regional counterparts also pose a significant risk in the near term, with potentially unfavourable tax policies impacting the competitiveness of Sri Lankan manufacturers.

# Alignment to Group strategy

	Short-term	Medium to Long-term
Portfolio optimisation (>	<ul> <li>Pursue growth in new applications and market segments</li> <li>New product development and market expansion in growing media products</li> </ul>	Optimise business model through gradual curtailment of loss leaders
Customer Centricity ()	<ul> <li>Enhance value-added product portfolio through R&amp;D investments</li> </ul>	Embrace digitalisation in driving better customer service
Inclusive value chains	<ul> <li>Widen economic impact through diversifying supplier networks</li> <li>Ensure supply chain security through backward integration</li> </ul>	
What we hope to achieve	24% Revenue growth ROCE>5% Gearing <50% 10% Revenue grow ROCE >10% Gearing <50%	th 15% reduction in Scope 1 & 2 emissions Average 40 hours training per/employee

Opportunities and levers	Risks to strategy
$\rightarrow$ Increasing demand for growing media products	→ Escalating geo-economic confrontations
→ Sustainability as a competitive edge	→ Escalating physical implications of climate change (CRRO1, CRRO 2)
$\rightarrow$ Growth opportunities in new markets	→ Increasing stringency of environmental regulations (CRRO 3)