

# I-SPOC Bulletin

July to September 2023

## NEWS



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### Ministry of Indonesia and Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) agree to boost capacity of oil palm farmers

The Ministry of Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen small farmers' capacity to accelerate the implementation of sustainable palm oil in Indonesia. The minister emphasized that the collaboration with RSPO aims to mitigate the negative impacts of the palm oil industry on tropical rainforests, biodiversity, and the rights of local residents. Cooperative efforts will promote transparency, accountability, and active participation to transition towards more sustainable palm oil production and enhance the economic value for palm farmers.

### Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) signs MoU with Indian trade body Indian Vegetable Oil Producers' Association (IVPA)

Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Indian Vegetable Oil Producers' Association (IVPA). The MOU seeks to encourage collaboration between Malaysian and Indian companies in commercial and technical areas. The MoU also covers areas such as sustainable vegetable oil production and trade, technology transfer and capacity building in palm-oil based industries along with promotion of best practices and quality standards.



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### Balancing Economic Development and Environmental Conservation in Oil Palm

India is pursuing a responsible path, aiming to strike a balance between palm oil economic needs and environmental conservation. India's palm oil push has the potential to yield tremendous benefits for the country's economy, its farmers, and its bid for self-sufficiency. When carried out responsibly, oil palm cultivation can also contribute to further India's carbon neutrality goals as plantations act as carbon sinks sequestering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. At the same time, careful land-use planning can reduce the pressure on high biodiversity landscapes.

### Mega Oil Palm Plantation drive organized in 49 districts of 11 states of India

Various State Governments along with Oil Palm Processing Companies, organized a Mega Oil Palm Plantation Drive from 25th of July 2023 till 12th August 2023. Through this drive, the states and the companies were able to reach out to more than 7000 farmers in 77 villages of 49 districts in 11 states, covering approximately 3500 ha. of the area and planting more than 5.00 lakh planting material.



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### Telangana is promoting oil palm for future needs: Telangana Agriculture Minister



Agriculture Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy stated that the State government is taking proactive measures to promote oil palm cultivation, keeping in view the future requirements of the State. He added that the government is providing subsidies to farmers to support oil palm cultivation. The subsidies cover expenses related to plant material, intercrop inputs, and drip irrigation. Currently, two processing mills and 38 oil palm nurseries are active in the state to support oil palm cultivation.

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## EVENTS

### Global Roundtable Conference Indian Vegetable Producers' Association (IVPA)

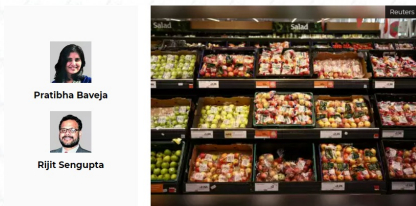
WWF along with RSPO sponsored a session and a booth/pavilion at the 2nd edition of the Global Roundtable Conference organized by the [Indian Vegetable Producers' Association \(IVPA\)](#) from August 4-5, 2023.



### GLOBOIL 2023, Mumbai

WWF India and RSPO attended the Globoil India event on 28th-30th September 2023 in Mumbai.

## PUBLICATIONS



World Wide Fund (WWF), India and Centre for Responsible Business (CRB) worked on an article titled 'Greening agri-supply chains' that highlights the necessity of governance of sustainable supply chains by collaboration between Global North and South in the G20 agenda was published in [The Economic Times](#).

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CRB and RSPO finalized Policy Input Note on 'Towards a Policy Framework for Financing Sustainable Palm Oil In India'. The note will be released and disseminated at the 10th edition of CRB's annual sustainability conference '[India and Sustainability Standards \(ISS\)](#)' from the **6th to 8th of November 2023** at the **India Habitat Centre, New Delhi**.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## I-SPOC Completes 5 years

- On **September 18, 2023**, the coalition completed five years of working on promoting sustainable consumption and trade of palm oil and its derivatives in India along the supply chain, through industry collaboration.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- CRB 10th Annual Conference, [India and Sustainability Standards \(ISS\) 2023](#) will be held from November 6 to 8 2023 at India Habitat Centre New Delhi. The theme of this year's event is '**Solutions for Sustainability and Inclusivity: Policy, Innovation & Collaboration**'.
  - [WWF- India](#) is hosting a session on '**Aligning Sustainability to the Policy Landscape for soft commodities**' on **7 November 2023** from 1200 to 1330 hrs at ISS 2023
  - [RSPO](#) is hosting a session on '**Innovative Strategies for Advancing Sustainable Palm Oil Production in India**' on **7 November 2023** from 1430 to 1600 hrs at ISS 2023
  - [Rainforest Alliance](#) is hosting a session on '**Driving Demand for Sustainable Consumption: Contributing to Mission LiFE**' on **8 November 2023** from 1200 to 1330 hrs at ISS 2023



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- WWF India along with WWF-Indonesia to conduct a multi-stakeholder exposure visit to Indonesia for the corporates, smallholders and the policymakers in **November 2023**.
- RSPO Annual Roundtable Conference on Sustainable Palm Oil (RT2023) will be held from **20 - 22 November 2023** at the **Hotel Mulia Senayan in Jakarta, Indonesia**.

**The Sustainable Palm Oil Coalition for India**

**I-SPOC**