

NEWS



MSPO should be seen as pathway to compliance with EU deforestation rules – MPOC CEO

Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC) Chief Executive Officer Belvinder Kaur Sron at the MPOA's National Palm Oil Conference 2023 (NPOC23), highlighted the importance of Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) as a recognised pathway to compliance with the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) as this will provide the country's palm oil producers access to the European market and in turn strengthen Malaysian palm oil image as a sustainable and deforestation-free choice.

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Government of India aims to triple palm oil production by 2030

The Government of India is aiming to increase domestic palm oil production from current level of 0.35 million tonne (MT) to a MT by 2030 under the national oil palm mission through adding at least 0.1 million hectare (MH) of new plantation annually in the five to six years, according to a leading industry official.



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Indonesia says 200,000 hectares of palm plantations to be made forests

Indonesia, the world's biggest palm oil producer and exporter, issued rules in 2020 to sort out the legality of plantations operating in areas that are supposed to be forests, aimed at fixing governance in the sector. As per government records, 200,000 hectares (494,210 acres) of oil palm plantations are to be found in areas designated as forests in Indonesia and are expected to be returned to the state to be converted back into forests.

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3F Oil Palm lays foundation stone for integrated oil palm processing complex in Andhra Pradesh

3F Oil Palm has begun construction on India's first integrated greenfield oil palm processing complex in Andhra Pradesh. The company plans to invest Rs. 250 crore in the project, which is expected to produce 200,000 metric tonnes of refined oil per year by FY25 to create 500 direct and 1,000 indirect jobs.



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RSPO to launch new palm oil tracing system in 2024

[The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil \(RSPO\)](#) is developing a new system to trace the origin and environmental credentials of the commodity in response to demands by global buyers for proof of sustainability beyond certification. RSPO appointed in



October a consortium of agri-tech firms consisting of Agridence, CIED and Australia's NGIS to develop the new system which would provide more information on the vegetable oil supply chain.

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EVENTS

- [WWF-India](#) and [Centre for Responsible Business \(CRB\)](#) organized a session on **"Aligning Sustainability to the Policy Landscape for Soft Commodities"** on 07 November 2023 at the [India and Sustainability Standards \(ISS-2023\)](#). The session provided an overview on the evolving global and national policy landscape pertaining to soft commodities and their supply chains while also highlighting the actions and achievements of India and the Global South regarding the regulations



- [RSPO](#) hosted a session on **'Innovative Strategies for Advancing Sustainable Palm Oil Production in India'** at CRB's annual conference India and Sustainability Standards (ISS 2023) on 07 November 2023. The brief objective of the session was to promote sustainability within the Indian palm oil industry by showcasing innovative practices, sharing success stories, and emphasizing the importance of environmental and social responsibility.



- [Rainforest Alliance \(RA\)](#) hosted a session on **'Driving Demand for Sustainable Consumption: Contributing to Mission LiFE'** on 8 November 2023 at CRB annual's sustainability conference, India and Sustainability Standards (ISS 2023). The brief objective of the session was to uncover opportunities and challenges in driving demand in the market for sustainable products in alignment with and contribution towards the objectives of Mission LiFE .



- [WWF- India](#) attended **RSPO Annual Roundtable Conference on Sustainable Palm Oil (RT2023)** in Jakarta from 21-23 November 2023. WWF- India networked with various organizations included Preferred by Nature, Rainforest Alliance, Forever Sabah, Godrej, Apical were amongst others.
- WWF-India completed a multi-stakeholder exposure visit to Indonesia from 21 November 2023 to 26 November 2023 in collaboration with WWF-Indonesia and RSPO. The various stakeholders present on the visit were smallholder representatives (from Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh), Assam government officials (Director of Agriculture and the Joint Secretary), and industry representatives (Godrej, 3F, LDC, Ajanta Soya, IVPA and Galaxy Surfactants).



The visit included meetings with Apical group, Asian Agri, GAPKI, Ministry of Agriculture, Indonesia, Riau province government, and Amanah. The delegates also visited the Tesso Nilo landscape, Asian Agri Buatan mill and Amanah smallholder plantation.

- The first meeting of the policy engagement group under I-SPOC was conducted on 25 October 2023 and the next meeting was held on 5 December 2023, where the briefing note of this group was drafted and the stakeholders were identified.
- WWF-India's social media campaign on sustainable palm oil was launched on the World Food Day (16 October 2023).
- WWF-India, RSPO and CRB attended the first edition of The Sutra Summit on 16 & 17 December 2023 organized by **IDH**.



PUBLICATIONS

WWF-India published an article on linkages between deforestation and climate in TerraGreen online magazine, November 2023 issue.

Deforestation-Free Supply Chains

A Promising Route to Achieve Climate Targets!

As countries strive to achieve the climate goals of the Paris Agreement, Dr Pratiksha Baveja, Karishma Vishra, Sujana Das and Vishal Dey highlight the often ignored linkages that exist between climate and forests. Moving towards responsible sourcing of forest and agriculture based commodities can facilitate the halting of deforestation and conversion in supply chains which can significantly contribute to achieving the global climate targets.

Climate change is currently the foremost challenge that the humanity faces. Not only does it endanger human survival through physical threats such as the loss of forests, biodiversity, global warming, climate disasters, and sea-level rise, but also through social and economic threats related to its to vulnerable communities, infrastructural damage, fires, and so on. From identifying the imminent dangers and challenges of climate change as

the Rio Summit in 1992 to the target of limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5°C by means of the Paris Agreement in 2015, humanity has come a long way through collaborative efforts. Along the way, innovative economic and technological climate solutions such as carbon credits, renewable energy, and electrical mobility were invented that have supported climate mitigation. Despite these efforts, there are some issues that still require urgent

attention of global leaders. The linkage between climate and forests often remains a complex and overlooked issue. However, with the evolving global agenda, there is growing realization around the significant contribution that could be made towards achieving the climate goals and targets by moving towards sustainable sourcing practices that ensure the protection of existing forests.

Healthy Forests Lead to a Healthy Economy and a Healthy Climate

Forests cover only one third of the global land but their contribution to human life and welfare is far greater. Many communities and people depend on forests directly for their livelihoods while, half of the world's GDP is directly or indirectly dependent on ecosystem services provided by forests. The economic value of forests globally is estimated to be

Wang et al., 2022. Nature this way. Why the world needs to move faster to tackle climate change. <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-00000-0>. Accessed January, 2023.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Capacity Building Workshop by I-SPOC to be organized in February or March 2024.

The Sustainable Palm Oil Coalition for India

I-SPOC