

# I-SPOC Bulletin

January to March 2023

## News



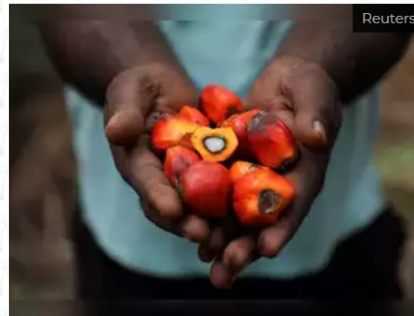
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### Edo trains smallholder oil palm farmers on sustainable farming practices

To ensure sustainable oil palm production in Edo state, investors under the Community Outreach and Engagement Programme (COEP) have engaged smallholder communities to ensure sustainable palm oil practices. The training was attended by over 80 smallholder oil palm farmers, elders, youths, women and community-based organisations (CBO) and it covered the principles and criteria of Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO).

### Top palm oil buyer India's February imports drop to 8-month low

As per statement from Mumbai-based Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA), India's palm oil imports reported lowest since June 2022 and fell to 586,007 tonnes in February. India imports palm oil majorly from Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand. As per leading trade body this low import rate resulted due to less demand and excessive imports during November-January. The country's palm oil imports during November to January jumped 86% from a year ago because of lower prices even as demand was subdued due to winter months, said a Mumbai-based dealer with a global trade house.



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### Nagaland targets oil palm cultivation in cluster approach

Nagaland State has targeted eight districts for five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26 for the oil palm cultivation in a cluster approach in a sustainable manner. The state has selected potential foothill areas of the state without disturbing the natural forest and biodiversity of an area. The goal of oil palm cultivation is to create employment opportunities and generate remunerative livelihood income to the farmers.

### Telangana Govt plans to raise oil palm in 20 lakh acres

Telangana government has set a target to cover across 20 lakh acres in expanding oil palm cultivation in the state. The government is providing large-scale incentives to farmers to increase their interest in oil palm cultivation. The budget for 2023-24 proposes a total of Rs 1,000 crore for oil palm cultivation.



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### Oil palm cultivation: Godrej Agrovet signs MoUs with Assam, Manipur and Tripura

Godrej Agrovet signed MoUs with Assam, Manipur and Tripura for development and promotion of oil palm cultivation under the



central scheme- National Mission on Edible Oils- Oil Palm (NMEO-OP). The land has been allotted across the three states by development and promotion of sustainable palm oil plantations in the region.

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## Events

### January - March 2023

- **India International Centre on 30th January 2023:** Speaking to academicians and agriculture experts at the India International Centre, RSPO Deputy Director of Market Transformation (India & China), Ashwin Selvaraj, highlighted the importance in choosing the sustainable route for the import and production of palm oil in the country. Chaired by former Union Agriculture Secretary, Shri Shiraj Hussain, the first half of the lecture saw Ashwin detailing what sustainable palm oil means and the work RSPO has done globally.
- **Global Business Summit (GBS2023):** On February 18, **RSPO CEO, Joseph D'Cruz (JD)**, participated in a roundtable dialogue on multilateral trade and business during the Global Business Summit (GBS2023) in Delhi. Speaking among a panel of 11 experts, he addressed India's potential in leading the transformation in the move towards a clean and green vegetable oil supply chain instead of being led.



- **World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS):** Ashwin Selvaraj, Bhavya Sharma and Nitya Chhiber represented RSPO and CRB respectively at the summit organised by The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI) from 22-24 February 2023. WSDS is the annual flagship Track II initiative organized by TERI.
- **Palm & Lauric Oils Price Outlook Conference & Exhibition (POC 2023):** Joseph D'Cruz, CEO RSPO along with the RSPO board members hosted a high tea at POC 2023 on 6th March 2023, Malaysia where there were representatives from India, China & Malaysia to discuss driving demand of palm oil in Asia.
- **Massmerize 2023:** Shivnayan Aggarwal, Manager- Market Transformation, RSPO attended Massmerize 2023 organised by FICCI on 6th March 2023 which focussed on sustainability as a theme. Piyush Goyal, Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, stressed on incorporating sustainability in the rapid growth fuelled by demand. The event was well attended by leading companies in India.



### Upcoming events:

- **I-SPOC 9th Members meeting** to be held in April in Mumbai.
- RSPO India will be present at **the Chemp Expo India** to be held from 18th April at Bombay Exhibition Hall.
- **RSPO India members' meeting** will be hosted alongside [CMPL Expo](#) from 4-5th May at the Jio Convention Centre, Mumbai.
- RSPO India will be present at **the Plant Based Food Summit** on May 22.
- **National Conclave on "Integrating Sustainability Principles into Action Plans for Domestic Oil Palm Production"** hosted by I-SPOC to be held on 24th of May in New Delhi.

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### Publications

[Fern](#) EU based organization dedicated to protecting the forest and people has released a [briefing paper](#) on the European Union (EU) Regulation on deforestation-free products (EUDR) that will be adopted in spring 2023. This regulation is expected to prohibit companies from putting products on the EU market unless they are deforestation-free and legally produced. The EUDR applies to wood, palm oil, soy, coffee, cocoa, rubber and beef as well as most of the products derived from these commodities like hides, leather, chocolate, charcoal, paper and printed paper. The briefing paper covers what the EU Deforestation Regulation means and why we should care.



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[The Sustainable Palm Oil Coalition for India](#)



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