

I-SPOC Bulletin

April to June 2023

NEWS



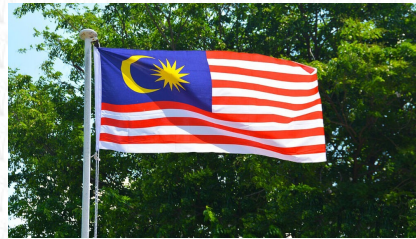
To stabilize palm oil supply chain Malaysia and China signed trade partnership

To enhance palm oil trade and cooperation, Malaysia has signed a memorandum of understanding with a Chinese government-backed trade association. The Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) said the partnership will help Malaysia regain market share in the country. With this partnership, both the countries aim to promote the use of Malaysia's sustainable palm oil. Along with that, a part of the cooperation will also look at designing and implementing new technologies such as artificial intelligence in palm plantations.

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No new land clearing for oil palm plantations in Malaysia

Malaysian deputy Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof quoted that there has been no new land clearing or deforestation for oil palm plantations in the country. This move by the Malaysian government has been carried out to follow the European Union (EU) decision to ban the sale of palm oil and other commodities linked to deforestation unless the importers could show the production of their specific goods had not damaged forests.



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Godrej Agrovet and SBI become partners to offer loans to oil palm farmers

Godrej Agrovet's Oil Palm has partnered with the State Bank of India (SBI) to offer loans to oil palm farmers for setting up micro irrigation facilities and installing fencing to protect crops from cattle and improvement of tube wells at their oil palm farms. Officials from Godrej Agrovet stated that this partnership was introduced with an objective of aiding oil palm growth by improving Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFB) productivity. The officials feel that this partnership will act as a catalyst to maintain juvenile gardens during the gestation period of the first 5 years.

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Odisha Govt Signs MoUs With 6 Companies For Oil Palm Plantation

The Odisha government signed MoUs with six companies to achieve the target for oil palm plantation. The MoUs, signed by the Directorate of Horticulture in the presence of the Agriculture Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain in Bhubaneswar, are in addition to existing oil palm companies covering about 20 districts in the state. As per the MoU, the companies will establish seed garden, nurseries of oil palm to meet the requirement of seedling, take up area expansion programmes in the allotted districts and set up at least one processing unit in each district within the gestation period.



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3F Oil Palm launches plantation in Lakhimpur, Assam

3F Oil Palm and Assam state Agricultural department marks the first oil palm plantation in



Assam under the National Mission on Edible Oil – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP). In association with the Assam government the company organized a ceremonial plantation of Oil Palm under the NMEO-OP mission at Bokanala in Assam's Lakhimpur district. As per an official statement, "The initiative aims to uplift farming communities and contribute to India's self-reliance on edible oils. It emphasizes the government's commitment to the development and progress of the Oil Palm Plantation sector".

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EVENTS

I-SPOC 9th Members meeting

The 9th Members Meeting of I-SPOC was held on 12th April, 2023 in Mumbai. The meeting was attended by over 20 organizations. The I-SPOC secretariat, CRB gave an overview of the activities undertaken by the coalition since the last members meeting conducted in August 2022.



The updates included development and dissemination of knowledge products, initiation and dissemination of quarterly newsletter and annual report along with the increase in membership on the LinkedIn page of I-SPOC. An update on the work undertaken by the Traceability Action Group was also provided by the secretariat. Two knowledge products namely; [Policy Input Note on Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation - Production of Sustainable Palm Oil in India](#) and [Practitioner Guide on Mitigating Risks in Financial Agro-Commodities](#) were launched at the meeting. Lastly, insights from members and observers were collected regarding their achievements, issues, challenges and support required in carrying out the Sustainable Palm Oil journey. and

I-SPOC Open Day

I-SPOC conducted its first **Open Day** for 2023 on the **5th May 2023** in Mumbai. The event was attended by major palm oil sustainability experts from AAK, Patanjali Foods Limited, Galaxy Surfactants limited and Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC) amongst others. The experts shared with the participants about their sustainability journey, the transition to sustainable palm oil and highlighted the need of the market to transit towards more sustainable options.



Stakeholder Conclave on Sustainable Oil Palm

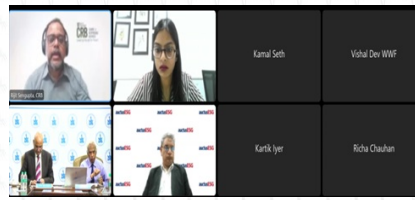
I-SPOC hosted the Stakeholder Conclave on Sustainable Palm Oil on the **24th of May 2023** at **The Claridges in New Delhi**. The keynote address at the event was given by Dr. Ashok Dalwai, IAS, CEO of the National Rainfed Area Authority, [Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India](#). The event witnessed an active participation of over 50 attendees. The primary objective of the event was to facilitate discussions and garner valuable insights from key stakeholders, including government representatives, businesses, and policy makers, on the integration of sustainability practices in the domestic production of palm oil in India. The discussions focussed on looking at the global scenario of vegetable oil, the linkages between [National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct \(NGRBC\)](#) and National Mission on Edible Oils- Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) and the integration of sustainability practices into the domestic production of palm oil in India. The discussions also put light on the role of policy makers, businesses, smallholders, consumers and others in making the transition to sustainable palm oil.

To read more about the event, please click here for the [Summary report](#) and [Press Release](#).



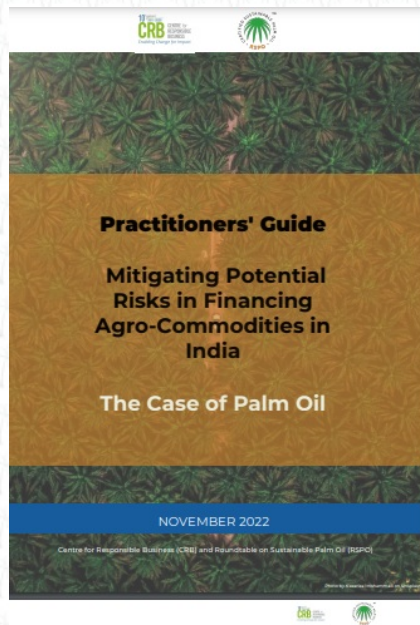
WWF- IBA Capacity Building Workshop

WWF in partnership with Indian Banks' Association (IBA) conducted an online **Capacity Building Workshop on Responsible Financing in the Forest and Agro Commodities Sector on May 26, 2023**. The workshop was attended by over 120 participants including IBA member banks.



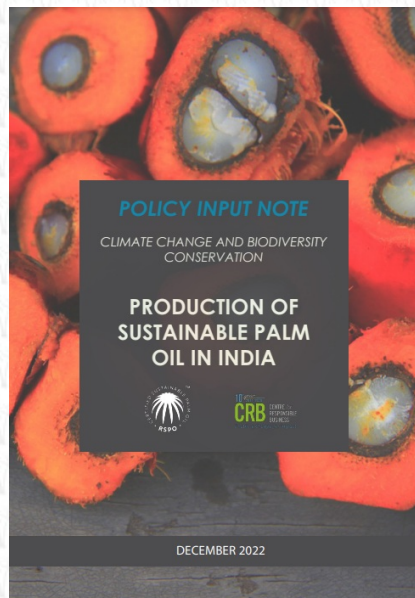
PUBLICATIONS

Following Knowledge Products were launched at the 9th Members Meeting of I-SPOC:



Practitioners Guide - Mitigating Potential Risks in Financing Agro -Commodities in India

[Read Here](#)



Policy Input Note on Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation - Production of Sustainable Palm Oil in India

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

VVF joined I-SPOC as a permanent member in May 2023.



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



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