What is Palm Oil?

Oil palm is a tropical, perennial crop mainly cultivated for its vegetable oil, which is composed of both palm oil and kernel oil. Palm oil is derived from the mesocarp, whereas kernel oil is derived from the endosperm or kernel. Both palm oil and palm kernel oil are constituents of various food items, oleochemicals, medicinal and health products, household products and industrial products.

Why Sustainable Palm Oil?

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It is in this context that sustainable palm oil production, processing and trade has been advocated and is being practised globally. While initially this was driven mainly by food and lifestyle MNCs that made commitments to promote sustainable palm to halt deforestation, support sustainable land-use and preserve biodiversity, gradually upstream value chain actors have also joined such initiatives.

India is the second largest consumer and biggest importer of palm oil (8.32MMT imported in 2020-21). India mostly relies on imports to meet its domestic demand for palm oil. The Government of India has also (in 2021) launched an ambitious programme on domestic production which will bring palm oil cultivation across 650,000 hectares across 14 states over a period of the next 5 years. Switching to sustainable palm oil provides considerable benefits to various stakeholders in the food and lifestyle sector,
and there is a need to build widespread awareness and capacity for the transition to sustainable palm oil in India.

### About the Sustainable Palm Oil Coalition for India (I-SPOC)

The **Sustainable Palm Oil Coalition for India (I-SPOC)** was founded in September 2018 by four organisations namely; Centre for Responsible Business (CRB), Rainforest Alliance, Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and WWF - India. The overall goal of the forum is to promote sustainable consumption and trade of palm oil and its derivatives in India along the supply chain, through industry collaboration.

The coalition is a business-led, multi-stakeholder sustainability initiative which works towards promoting sustainable sourcing, trade and consumption of palm oil and its derivatives along the supply chain. This can be achieved by facilitating multi stakeholder dialogues on sustainable palm oil and enabling sustainable trade partnerships that discuss challenges and opportunities (principle of ‘shared responsibility’). In addition to this, the coalition also promotes a supportive policy, regulatory environment as well as capacity building on sustainable sourcing strategies and actions.

Over the years, I-SPOC has evolved and through its innovative and collaborative approach, has expanded to include **33 members** including businesses, internationals NGOs, FMGCs and financial institutions.
Members of I-SPOC

Affiliate Members

Founding Members
To ensure positive momentum the coalition prioritises focus areas to develop and implement action plans through working groups. Linked to the key barriers and uptake of sustainable palm oil in India, three working groups have been established:

1. Government Policy and Domestic Production
2. Supply Chain and End Users
3. Financial Institutions
As India continues to be one of the largest consuming markets of palm oil, it is in the ideal position to drive responsible sourcing globally. I-SPOC convenes the front-runners of global sustainability, important national stakeholders (refiners, processors, traders and producers) in the palm oil value chain and other ecosystem actors (civil society, financial sector and government agencies). Members of I-SPOC are committed stakeholders in the palm oil supply chain in India with an interest in the uptake of responsible sourcing practices and believe in the principle of shared responsibility.

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