

European Sustainable Palm Oil Advocacy Group

A JOURNEY
TOWARDS
100%
SUSTAINABLE
PALM OIL



CAOBISCO
Chocolate, Biscuits & Confectionery of Europe

fedima


FEDIOL


EUROPEAN MARGARINE ASSOCIATION

KEY FACTS ON CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL

- For ESPOAG, certified sustainable palm oil is palm oil produced by plantations which have been independently audited, certified, and meet social and ecological requirements¹.
- In 2018, 83% of the palm oil imported for food into Europe was RSPO certified sustainable palm oil².
- NDPE (No Deforestation, No Peat, No Exploitation) company policies are an important reference or indicator for the change operating in the sectors' environmental and social production standards; these sourcing policies cover 83% of Southeast Asia's Refining Capacity³.

SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL IN A BALANCED DIET

- Palm oil has specific functional properties that make it a key ingredient in food manufacturing (e.g. providing texture, spread-ability, shelf-life).
- Palm oil contains saturated and unsaturated fatty acids in near equal amounts. Recommended intakes for saturated fats suggests a consumption of 20g per day. It is the fatty acid composition of the whole food consumed that should be considered, rather than the individual oil or fat the fatty acid comes from.
- The body needs fats every day. They provide energy and they contain and facilitate the absorption of vitamins.
- ESPOAG members are, and have been committed for several years, to optimising the nutrient composition of their products on a voluntary basis. Palm oil is labelled in the ingredient list if it is present in the product.
- Palm oil is a positive alternative to partially hydrogenated oils which contain trans fatty acids.

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL

- ESPOAG members are at the forefront of driving awareness by working closely with the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and in cooperation with other stakeholders, NGOs, governments and retailers.
- ESPOAG members are concerned about the potential long-term environmental and social impacts of tropical deforestation and are actively committed to increasing the use of sustainably produced palm oil.
- Palm oil provides an important source of revenue for millions of people in South East Asia, Latin America and Africa. It plays a vital role in rural development and poverty reduction in producing countries.
- Palm oil, when produced sustainably, can make an important contribution towards the sustainability of food production and consumption and can help meet food security objectives due to its high productivity.

NO PALM OIL = NO SOLUTION

UNDULY DISCRIMINATING PRODUCTS CONTAINING PALM OIL (FOR EXAMPLE VIA 'PALM OIL-FREE' CLAIMS) UNDERMINES ALL THE ACTIVITIES AND COMMITMENTS ON SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL.



1 For example, to become RSPO certified and sell RSPO certified palm material, a palm oil producer needs to comply with a set of criteria aimed i.a. at preserving primary forest, to maintaining transparent supply chains, checking carbon emissions, limiting planting on peatlands, treating workers fairly, and creating wildlife zones. These criteria are annually verified by a third-party auditor.

2 <https://palmoilalliance.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/EPOA-facts-and-figures-2018-A5-digital-DEF.pdf>

3 Chain Reaction Research: <https://chainreactionresearch.com/report/ndpe-policies-cover-83-of-palm-oil-refineries-implementation-at-75/>

MEETING THE SDGS

Sustainable palm oil production contributes to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals:



SDG 1: NO POVERTY

- Reduces rural poverty and lifts income in producing countries in regions of Latin American, Southeast Asia and Central Africa;
- An estimated 40%⁴ of the palm oil globally produced is owned by smallholder farmers.



SDG 2: ZERO HUNGER

- Palm oil is a key food ingredient, in particular in developing countries where it is part of traditional and local diets;
- As food demand will increase and palm oil is a high yielding vegetable oil crop, it will play an important role in meeting consumer demand (current yields of Palm oil in Indonesia and Malaysia average between 4 and 4.5 tons per hectare⁵).



SDG 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- Palm oil consists of almost equal amounts of saturated and unsaturated fatty acids. In many food applications, the use of palm oil has been instrumental in lowering trans-fat levels. The semi-fluid or solid consistency of palm oil makes it a suitable alternative to partially hydrogenated oils and fats⁶.



SDG 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

- Increases the GDP of developing countries: palm oil is the main agricultural export of Indonesia and Malaysia, generating 10% and 5% respectively of their exports. The sector provides employment for 721,000 smallholders and labourers in Malaysia, and 4 million in Indonesia; a further 11 million in the two countries are indirectly dependent on it⁷.
- Through the RSPO's "Children's Rights and Business Principles" (CRBP), all RSPO members are encouraged to respect and protect children's rights.



SDG 12: RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

- By choosing the production of sustainable palm oil, it can protect and promote both the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity by combating deforestation and halt land degradation (referring to SDG 15: Life on Land);
- Currently there is more supply than demand for sustainable palm oil.



SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION

- Palm oil industry actors have acknowledged their responsibility and have responded to the challenge of halting deforestation by implementing sourcing policies, commitments and pledges, monitoring, and communication of progress, applying sustainable production practices on a voluntary basis.

4 <https://rspo.org/smallholders>

5 Sage Journals, Outlook on Agriculture - click [HERE](#)

6 FEDIOL Nutrition Factsheet - click [HERE](#)

7 European Parliamentary Research Service Blog "Palm Oil: Economic And Environmental Impacts" <https://epthinktank.eu/2018/02/19/palm-oil-economic-and-environmental-impacts/>

WE SUPPORT A GLOBAL APPROACH

Beyond the engagement of private players towards sustainable practices, the entire supply chain can only be transformed by tackling the problem globally. This requires government engagement both with producing and consumer countries (such as China, India, and the US), and private initiatives.

EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL ADVOCACY GROUP

ABOUT US

The European Sustainable Palm oil Advocacy Group (ESPOAG) was created in January 2013.

Its objective is:

- to support the uptake of sustainable palm oil in Europe;
- to communicate scientific and objective facts and figures on environmental, nutritional and functional aspects of sustainable palm oil in Europe.

It is composed of the following European food sector federations:

AIBI: International Association of Plant Bakers
<https://www.aibi.eu>

CAOBISCO: Chocolate, Biscuits and Confectionery of Europe
<http://www.caobisco.eu>

FEDIMA: Federation of European Union
Manufacturers and Suppliers of Ingredients to the
Bakery, Confectionery and Patisserie Industries
<https://www.fedima.org>

FEDIOL: EU Vegetable Oil and
Proteinmeal Industry
<https://www.fediol.eu>

IMACE: European Margarine Association
<http://www.imace.org>

The European food sector is working closely with stakeholders all along the supply chain to drive sustainable palm oil production. ESPOAG works closely with our national colleagues and national alliances committed to transforming supply chains to sustainable palm oil.

