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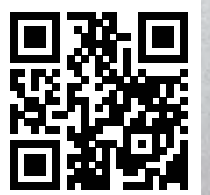
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		POME	Filtrate
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Biochemical Oxygen Demand (3 Days @ 30°C), mg/L	DL-LAB-TM01 (based on MN Method 8-22)	48.100	13.410
Chemical Oxygen Demand, mg/L	DL-LAB-TM02 (based on MN Method 0-26; 0-28; 0-29)	78.000	19.500
Ammonial Nitrogen (NH3-N), mg/L	DL-LAB-TM03 (based on MN Method 1-05)	70	12
Total Nitrogen, mg/L	DL-LAB-TM04 (based on MN Method 0-88)	590	28
Oil and Grease, mg/L	DOE (M) Reference Method	13.812	3
Suspended Solids, mg/L	DOE (M) Reference Method	24.600	31
Total Solids, mg/L	APHA 2540 B	49.750	20.760

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- The dust will trapped by the water and flows down the cylindrical compartment to the discharge point.
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Editor's Message



Don't miss our exclusive interview with Mr Harnarinder Singh, CEO of Malaysian Palm Oil Certification Council (MPOCC) and special feature on in Jul-Sep 2017 magazine! Find out how would MPOCC differ from RSPO with them being the leading certification body for sustainable palm oil.

To date, palm oil plantations have generally been monitored

using costly and time-consuming land-based assessments, and many countries lack the resources to do regular surveys. Can science and technology play a part in tackling these concerns? Find out more about remote sensing technologies which is being featured in one of our articles in this issue.

Our Green Solutions article in this Jul-Sep 2017 issue explore the biomass industry's potential in becoming a game changer for Malaysia, both in terms of economic growth and enhancing the sustainability of the local resources.

Lastly, don't miss our exclusive interview with Mr Lim Szu Chom, Founder & CEO of Mastech City Engineering (M) Sdn Bhd. Along with his partners - Mr Oon Boon Huat and Mr Ng Boon Teong, whom all of them are passionate, creative and experienced in the palm oil industry.

Enjoy!

Thank you,
Editor,
Charlyne Lee

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NASH WANTS GOV'T TO LEVERAGE ON ITS CO-OPS WHEN IMPLEMENTING RURAL DEVELOPMENT



KUALA LUMPUR: The National Association of Smallholders (NASH) has requested that the government leverage on its members' co-operatives in implementing rural development.

In a statement today, NASH president Datuk Aliasak Ambia said: "The government has to properly consider the co-operative as a vehicle for rural development."

"Through co-operatives, oil palm and rubber smallholders are better able to leverage on economies of scale in their businesses," he said.

NASH members are part of several

co-operatives all over the country, including the high profiled Koperasi Permodalan Felda.

Before smallholders' co-operatives were established, oil palm and rubber smallholders had very low acreage. Today, their land areas are comparable to estates owned by big plantation companies.

In view of the country celebrating its 100th anniversary of commercial oil palm planting, Aliasak noted that smallholders' interests are mainly focused on upstream activities of tending to the trees.

"The government, in giving due recognition to smallholders' co-operatives, would facilitate our members to invest in businesses throughout the palm oil and rubber

value chain," he said.

"We believe that smallholders are better able to contribute to the economy and in the longer term be part of the National Transformation 2050 (TN50) via the co-operatives platform," he added.

Last week, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, at the celebratory launch held at Tennamaram Estate, announced an additional RM510 million oil palm replanting budget for independent smallholders to apply from now until end-2020.

Aliasak noted smallholders are grateful for the additional allocation as it would help ease their financial burden and also raise national productivity at the fields.

Source: New Straits Times

FOCUS ON IMPROVING QUALITY OF OIL PALM TRUNKS

The Malaysian Timber Association (MTA) has urged the government to focus on improving quality and increasing usage of oil palm trunks through research, science and technology.

In a statement yesterday, the Plantation Industries and Commodities Ministry said the proposal was part of a summary of findings from a workshop organised by the MTA last year.

Its minister, Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong said the government had agreed to look into the need to establish a Special Committee on Oil Palm Trunk, comprising representatives from the ministry, government agencies related to oil palm and timber as well as industry players.

He said the synergy between oil

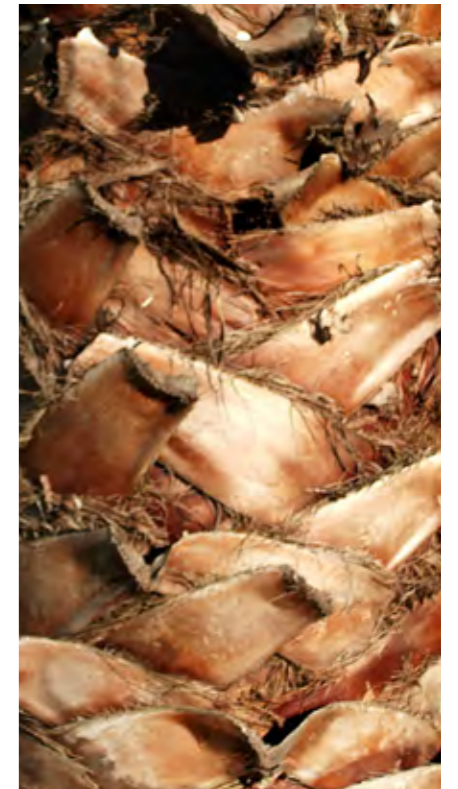
palm and the nation's timber industry can boost economic growth.

The ministry said a study by the Malaysian Timber Industry Board in 2015 revealed that 4.6 hectares of matured oil palm trunks resulting from replanting efforts were in good condition and had the potential to be turned into raw materials to meet the demands of the timber industry.

It said the timber industry was a main export commodity for Malaysia, contributing RM21.86 billion to export earnings.

For the first quarter of 2017, timber and timber product exports increased by 5.4 per cent to RM5.9 billion, compared to RM5.6 billion in the corresponding quarter of 2016.

Source: Borneo Post Online



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MOVING FORWARD WITH MSPO

The issue of environment is not the sole domain of the developed world. Malaysia may be a small nation but we are big in our commitment and execution to fight global warming. I find the decision by the United States of America to withdraw from the Paris Agreement disappointing because as the world's second largest polluter, US leadership is pivotal. However, this decision has also strengthened the resolve of other countries, notably China and India, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

A participant of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Malaysia signed and ratified the Kyoto Protocol negotiated in 1997, and in 2009, our Prime Minister further committed to a voluntary reduction of up to 40% in terms of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions intensity per unit of GDP by 2020 during the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP 15) in Copenhagen.

We are also one of the 195 countries that signed and one of the 148 countries who has also ratified the Paris Agreement agreed during COP 21 in 2015 respectively, committing to lower up to 45% in GHG emissions intensity per unit of GDP by 2030. As at 2015, we have already recorded a 33% reduction.

Unfortunately, despite our commitment and track record, the palm oil industry has been wrongly singled out as an alleged culprit of global warming. In fact, this is the furthest from the truth, believe me.

Methane is the most harmful GHG

The United States' Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), no less, says methane accounts for 16% of GHG emissions, with carbon dioxide produced primarily by the use of fossil fuel and industrial processes, recording the biggest share at 76%. However, methane is roughly 30 times more potent as a heat-trapping gas compared

to carbon dioxide, making it one of the main culprits of global warming.

And what produces the most methane? The Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations says the 1.5 billion cows that roam the Earth account for 65% of all livestock methane emission. Methane is created as a by-product when a cow burps as part of its food digestion.

Livestock is the real culprit for deforestation

Not only do livestock, including cows, generate global-warming GHG, it is also the leading culprit in deforestation. At 3.45 billion hectares, pasture makes up 69% of global agriculture land, which stands at 5 billion hectares. In comparison, oil palm hectareage stands at 18.87 million hectares, or 0.38% of global agriculture land. And Malaysia's oil palm footprint is merely 0.11% of global agriculture land at 5.74 million hectares.

Clearly, the large majority of the members of the European Parliament did not have a complete view of the palm oil situation, when they voted 640 to 18, with 28 abstentions, to introduce a single certification scheme for palm oil entering the EU market and phase out the use of palm biodiesel by 2020.

As I have said before, this is essentially a trade issue but it has been portrayed as an environmental one and it must be addressed comprehensively. This is despite the FAO validating Malaysia's forest cover of 55.5% and if you include agriculture tree cover, a total green canopy of 85% which is amongst the highest in the world.

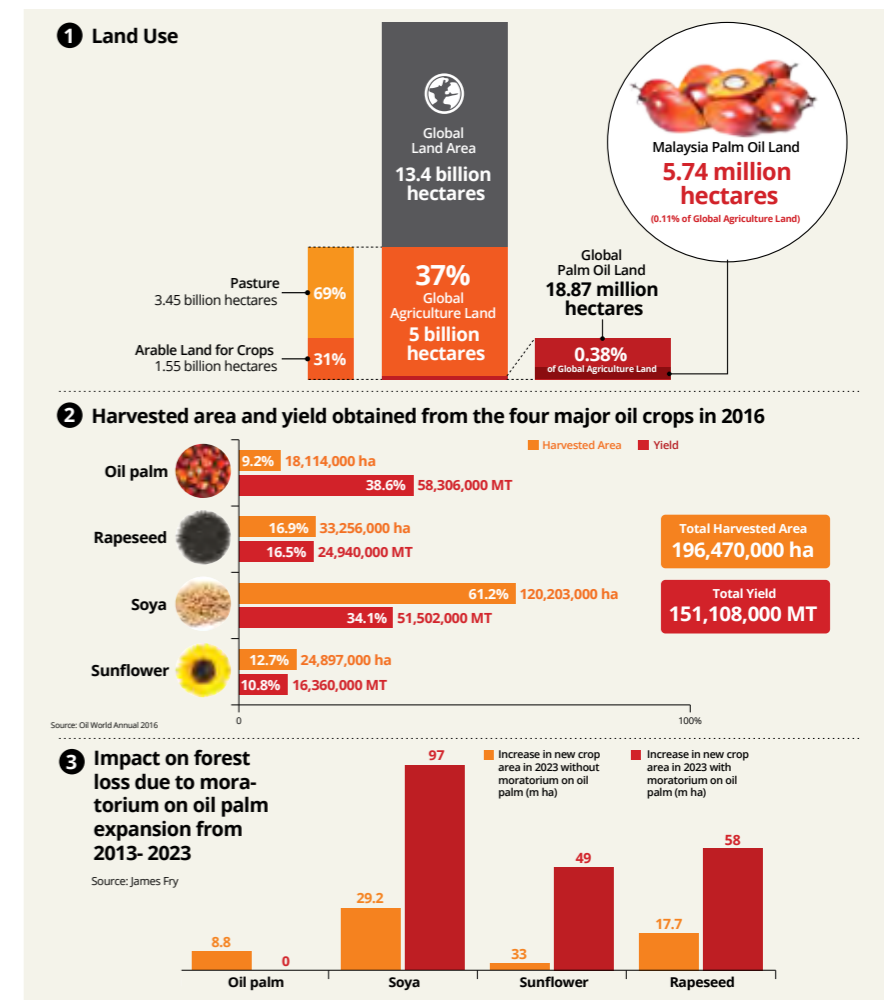
In my visit to Europe this coming week, I will be strongly putting forward our case and will work towards correcting the misconceptions some may have and also counter these allegations that can damage the livelihood more than two million Malaysians involved on the palm oil value chain including 644,522 smallholders, if left to fester.

Oil Palm is up to 7.5 times higher in yield

The world population is expected to grow from 7.4 billion in 2016 to 9.9 billion in 2050. More food needs to be produced and ideally, with the least extension of agriculture land and the world needs oil palm to step up and help feed the world efficiently. In fact, food security is an overriding concern for many countries.

As at 2016, oil palm uses the least land area and yet produces the highest yield per hectare. Oil palm yields 4.3 times, 5.4 times and 7.5 times higher than rapeseed, sunflower and soya respectively. When you look at the four major oil crops in total, oil palm utilises 9% of total land area but produces 39% of total oil. In contrast, soya uses 61% of total land area yet produces only 34% of total oil.

In fact, another study shows that if a moratorium on oil palm is enforced between 2013 and 2023, the rising demand of oils and fats will need to be harvested from additional 97 million hectares, 58 million hectares or 49 million hectares of new land area for soya, rapeseed or sunflower respectively, compared to merely another 8.8 million hectares of oil palm without a moratorium.



We are all for sustainability

Malaysia has continued to iterate that the palm oil industry is predicated on the 3P principles – People, Planet and Profit. In fact, this has been the case even before the birth of United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2016. The palm oil industry is a key catalyst to alleviate poverty, ensure no one goes hungry and provide decent work and economic growth.

Our sustainability initiatives, spearheaded by the Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) initiative that will be mandatory by end 2019, help us address the issues of global warming and biodiversity of life on land.

MSPO is premised on seven principles, which are highly universal in nature, ranging from management commitment and responsibility, transparency and compliance to legal requirements and best practices to social responsibility, health, safety, employment conditions, environment, natural resources and biodiversity.

As Malaysian smallholders make up almost 40% of palm oil hectareage, MSPO is also a key bridge to ensure compliance to sustainable standards keeping in mind that what is best for the environment is best for Malaysians.

The European Union must understand that Malaysia is a committed partner. We do not turn our backs to our key trading partners. It would be in the EU's interest to work with us especially on certification but they must embrace the effort in good faith, rather than imposing a single unilateral standard on us. Beyond the issue of sovereignty, certification must not be done at the expense of those who rely on it for their livelihood.

Let us move forward with MSPO.

Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong is Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities. Commodities Today and Beyond is his op-ed to share his views, hope and vision for commodities with everyday Malaysians.

Source: The Star Online

PM NAJIB: ECONOMIC RETALIATION ON COUNTRIES WHICH BOYCOTT PALM OIL EXPORT

KUALA SELANGOR: Nations which launch boycott against palm oil export will face economic retaliation from Malaysia and Indonesia.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak in cautioning such nations said Malaysia and Indonesia must make a point to such countries erecting trade barrier on palm oil that: "we also buy a lot from them".

“ I have discussed with Indonesia president Joko Widodo to have our ministers at the Council of Palm Oil Producing Countries (CPOPC) to go to these countries including the European Union, and convince them that their campaign and negative claims against palm oil is baseless.

"We also must tell them that Malaysia and Indonesia are not countries without capabilities.

"Malaysia and Indonesia also buy a lot from them, and whoever boycotts palm oil may see retaliation from us," warned Najib.

He said this in his speech at the Malaysian Palm Oil Industry 100th Anniversary celebration, held at Sime Darby's Tennamaran Estate in Bestari Jaya, Kuala Selangor here today.

Present were Plantation Industries and Commodities minister Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong, Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government minister Tan Sri Noh Omar, Mah's deputy Datuk Datu Nasrun Datu Mansur, Sime Darby Bhd chairman Tan Sri Abdul Ghani Othman, and its president and group chief executive Tan Sri Mohd Bakke Salleh.



» Nations which launch boycott against palm oil export will face economic retaliation from Malaysia and Indonesia. (Pix by ROSLIN MAT TAHIR)

Najib was commenting on nations which have launched campaigns to boycott palm oil exports, alleging that planters killed Orang Utan and caused massive environmental destruction.

In his speech, Najib said the agricultural industry has proven to be one of the most successful initiative by the federal government in eradicating poverty.

He is confident that the industry will continue to prosper, not just beyond the National Transformation 2050 (TN50) or a hundred years, but much further down the road.

At the event Najib also announced an additional RM510 million allocation as a replanting budget for smallholders to replace their old oil palm trees. This brings the total allocation to RM2.26 billion.

The Prime Minister also announced that the Education Ministry has agreed to allocate RM4 million to build new Tamil vernacular school at the estate. The SJKT, to be equipped with an assembly hall, will see students from existing Tamil school in Kampung Baru

Estate transferred to the new school once it is built.

At the event, which saw the presence of some 5,000 members of the industry including smallholders, Najib also launched a special edition 100 Years' Palm Oil Industry postal stamp and coffee table book.

During the event, Najib also received the Oil Palm Industry icon award, posthumously from Mah on behalf of his late father, second prime minister Tun Abdul Razak Hussein, for his contributions to the commodities sector. Other key industry personalities and organisations honoured with awards, was the Oil Palm Industry Founder Award for the late Henri Fauconnier who pioneered the first commercial oil palm estate in the country; the Small Time Planter Special Award's to Ahmad Sidek from the peninsula, Mohd Sabri Dimeng from Sabah, Musa Maton from Sarawak; the First Commercial Oil Palm Plantation Award to Tennamaran Estate; and the Pioneering Government Oil Palm Scheme to Felda Taib Andak in Kulai, Johor.

Source: New Straits Times



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4	Speed (RPM)	1000-6000	1000-6000	1000-6000	1000-6000
5	Maximum Power (HP)	900	1600	3500	7000
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MALAYSIA PALM GIANT CHAIRMAN RESIGNS AMID LEADERSHIP TENSION

The chairman of Felda Global Ventures Holdings Bhd. resigned amid a leadership tussle and graft probe at the world's biggest crude palm oil producer. Shares in the Malaysia state-linked company rose.

Isa Samad stepped down "to focus on his personal undertakings," according to a stock exchange filing on Monday. Sulaiman Mahbob, a board member at FGV, was appointed acting chairman with immediate effect. He was no longer a government-appointed director amid an effort to "uphold the integrity" of ongoing investigations, the government said in a statement.

The resignation comes after FGV's board of directors this month instructed four senior managers, including Chief Executive Officer Zakaria Arshad, to take a leave of absence pending investigations involving transactions at a subsidiary. Isa is not one of the four officials.

Zakaria, who denies wrongdoing, has urged Malaysia's anti-graft agency to probe alleged improprieties at FGV and said he often disagreed with Isa on how the company was managed.

The public wrangling at FGV has created political risk for Prime Minister Najib Razak as its parent agency is the Federal Land Development Authority, which was set up during Malaysia's independence to allocate land to farmers, many of whom are now FGV shareholders.

Isa is unpopular with some farmer groups -- known as settlers -- who saw Zakaria, a planter's son, as making progress in improving FGV's performance. Isa will be appointed acting chairman of Malaysia's Land Public Transport Commission, the government said in its Monday statement. Isa also relinquished his position as chairman of MSM Malaysia Holdings Bhd., the country's leading refined sugar producer and a listed subsidiary of FGV, according to a separate filing on Monday.



- Sulaiman Mahbob appointed as acting chairman of Felda Global
- Malaysia government says FGV, Felda need comprehensive review

RURAL VOTERS

The chairman's resignation may ease pressure on Najib, whose coalition needs farming votes to extend its 60 year grip on power in an election that may come within months. FGV's shares climbed as much as 6.3 percent to 1.87 ringgit after the announcement, reaching their highest level since May 30. The stock closed at 1.84 ringgit on Monday.

Settlers -- mostly ethnic Malays -- are already upset by a long decline in FGV's stock and late assistance payments from the company, which traces its roots to a 1956 grant from the World Bank and is virtually synonymous with government aid to rural Malaysia.

Najib has urged FGV's problems to be resolved quickly. The government appointed an independent party to look into the board's decision to suspend the four company officials related to an alleged breach of procedures at subsidiary Delima Oil Products Sdn.

The report showed "there are sufficient facts and reasonable grounds warranting the disciplinary proceedings" against the officials,

according to the government statement on Monday. No one is guilty of wrongdoing at this stage unless proven by pending domestic inquiries and the officials will be given a chance to defend themselves if needed, it said.

Malaysia's Anti-Corruption Commission on June 8 launched an investigation into issues involving several individuals in FGV to determine if there was any element of corruption and abuse of power. That probe is still underway, the government said Monday.

Zakaria told Bloomberg News on Monday that he will respond by Tuesday to a show-cause letter served by FGV's board.

The Delima case highlights the immediate need for FGV to "radically improve" its corporate governance and business controls at group and subsidiary levels, the government said. It added the decline in FGV's and Felda's financial performance in the last few years "warranted a comprehensive business review" that is underway and should be completed with urgency.

Source : Bloomberg

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WORKING HARD TO BOOST SECTOR

The Malaysian palm oil industry has overcome various challenges in its 100-year history, more so its tireless fight against smear campaigns targeting the palm oil industry, said Plantation Industries and Commodities Minister Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong.

“Back in the days, they attacked us by saying that palm oil was a tropical oil and its plantations were destroying the environment.

“Then they started campaigns saying that palm oil contained saturated fat which is bad for health and that it is carcinogenic. We have been countering these false claims for very long,” he said during an interview with NST Business recently.

The interview was held in conjunction with the 100th year anniversary of Malaysia’s palm oil industry.

Mah said he was delighted that some of these claims were proven wrong by an affiliate of the British Medical Journal last month, which counters false claims made against saturated fats.

“According to British Journal of Sports Medicine, there is no association that can be made between consumption of saturated fats and i) all-cause mortality, ii) coronary heart disease (CHD), iii) CHD mortality, iv) ischaemic stroke, or v) type-2 diabetes in healthy adults; citing a landmark meta-analysis of observational studies and systematic review on the subject matter.

This finding shows that saturated fats are not unhealthy and lends support to the current advice of consuming vegetable oils with zero trans fats such as palm oil to maintain a good health.”

Mah said research by the Malaysian Palm Oil Board had shown that palm oil is rich with antioxidants such as vitamin E tocotrienols, which can help prevent cancer.

“It is the other way around. We have to work really hard to combat these false claims,” he said.

It was also reported in February that the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) had falsely linked palm oil consumption to cancer.

EFSA had suggested that palm oil was more carcinogenic than other vegetable oils, as glycidyl esters (GE) and 3-monochloropropanediol (3-MCPD) elements found in it were genotoxic and carcinogenic.

“Those are distortion of facts. The GE and 3-MCPD elements are present in all vegetable oils including olive oil, (and) are not cancerous,” he said.

Recently, Malaysia and Indonesia decided to press on the European Union (EU) to reject the discriminatory terms passed in a European Parliament on a new palm oil resolution that will hurt tens of millions of tropical farmers’ livelihood.



» Plantation Industries and Commodities Minister Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong with some palm oil smallholders. He hopes palm oil exports this year would be able to do better than last year’s RM67.58 billion and achieve a target of RM70 billion.

The EU approved the discriminating resolution and ignored government-driven certification schemes, namely the Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil and the Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil.

Earlier this year, Mah and Indonesia’s Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Darmin Nasution said the Council of Palm Oil Producing Countries (CPOPC) views that environmental issues should not be used as a tool for discrimination and a disguised restriction to trade.

They said the proposed measures under the resolution go against international trade obligations.

Mah said he will be going to Europe with Darmin to press against the resolution.

“We have also decided to invite other countries like Thailand, Colombo, Ivory Coast and Papua New Guinea to join the CPOPC to strengthen collaboration in protecting one common interest — to protect the palm oil industry.

“We need to work together, especially in the area of marketing and combating false claims,” he said.

He said the bid against the EU resolution was important as Malaysia accounted for 29.4 per cent of EU’s total palm oil imports last year. It was the largest market for Malaysian palm oil and palm-based products with imports

valued at RM9.9 billion.

Mah said besides that, the government was serious about environmental issues, particularly in conserving the orangutan, which is classified as endangered species.

“Everywhere I go, a lot of Europeans and Americans are saying that Malaysian palm oil industry is killing orangutan due to the expansion of cultivated areas, and I would like to reiterate that this is not true.

We are working hard to conserve the orangutan. The attacks are saying that by 2010, there would be no more orangutan in Malaysia — extinct because of the palm oil industry.



“In fact, today, we have 11,200 orangutan in Sabah and 2,500 orangutan in Sarawak. We are helping to preserve orangutan,” he said.

In 2012, the Malaysian Palm Oil Council mooted the Malaysian Palm Oil Wildlife Conservation Fund with an initial funding of RM20 million of which RM10 million was a grant from the Malaysian government and the balance RM10 million was provided by the palm oil industry.

The fund is administered by MPOC, which also has the overall responsibility to manage the various conservation projects funded through MPOWCF.

Meanwhile, Mah said he was disappointed when the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) pact was shelved as the agreement was poised to offer a big potential for palm oil exports to the United States and TPP member nations.

He said since the agreement was now shelved, the ministry needed to work harder on new markets and was targeting more new export countries including Iran, India and the Philippines.

“We want to diversify and work harder on new markets and this is why we have set up offices in Iran and India. We think the Philippines is another huge potential for us, looking at its huge demand for palm oil and palm-based products,” he said.

Last year, Malaysia exported RM67.58 billion in palm oil and palm-based products.

Mah was previously reported as saying that he is confident that the exports for palm oil and palm-based products will hit RM70 billion this year, to be supported by the higher average palm oil prices and sustained global demand for the edible oil.

Since early this year, palm oil futures prices have been trading above RM3,000 a tonne, higher than last year’s average of RM2,653 a tonne.

“I hope the palm oil exports this year would be able to do better than last year’s RM67.58 billion. If prices were to go on trading at supportive levels, a four per cent growth to RM70 billion was achievable.”

Source: New Straits Times



CBIP **TO BUILD** PALM OIL MILL IN CENTRAL KALIMANTAN FOR RM39 MIL

CB Industrial Products Holdings Bhd (CBIP) announced that its 94%-owned subsidiary PT Berkala Maju Bersama will be constructing one unit of Continuous Sterilisation Palm Oil Mill at Manuhing in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia, at a cost of RM39.42 million.

"The Construction of Palm Oil Mill is expected to add another new stream of revenue to the company," CBIP said in a filing with Bursa Malaysia this evening.

"The total cost for the Construction of Palm Oil Mill will be satisfied by internally-generated funds or bank

borrowings," the plantation equipment supplier said in a filing with Bursa Malaysia this evening.

As at end-March, CBIP has cash and equivalents of RM91.93 million.

According to CBIP, the palm oil mill will have initial capacity to process 45 tonnes of fresh fruit bunches in one hour.

To construct the palm oil mill, CBIP said it has engaged two of its subsidiaries - its wholly-owned PalmitEco Engineering Sdn Bhd and 95%-owned PT CB Polaindo - to carry out the works.

CBIP said PalmitEco will import some machineries and equipment worth US\$5.66 million (RM24.24 million), while PT CB Polaindo will carry out construction works worth 47.36 billion rupiah (RM15.2 million).

"Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the Board of Directors expects the construction of the palm oil mill will commence in July and be completed by November 2018," CBIP added.

Listed on the local bourse since 1999, shares in CBIP rose two sen or 0.96% to close at RM2.10, valuing it at a market capitalisation of RM1.13 billion.

Source : The Edge



NASH HAILS DZULKIFLI ABDUL WAHAB'S APPOINTMENT AS NEW FTPSB CHAIRMAN

KUALA LUMPUR: The National Association of Smallholders (NASH) lauds Dato' Dzulkifli Abdul Wahab's appointment as the new chairman for Felda Technoplant Sdn Bhd (FTPSB), seeing it as an indication that the costly ongoing exercise of replanting old palms will be executed more efficiently.

Earlier, Dzulkifli was also appointed to the Felda board of directors.

In a statement today, Nash president Datuk Aliasak Ambia congratulated Dzulkifli on his appointment, adding that he is a highly experienced professional in Felda management, attentive to the development of settlers, and adept with the intricacies of land management, especially during his tenure as Felda director general in 2009.

Aliasak noted that FTPSB's role for settlers

is very important, as its function is to carry out replanting of unproductive oil palms.

Therefore, the appointment of Dzulkifli as the new FTPSB chairman can change the perception of Felda settlers towards FTPSB, especially when it comes to the issue of replanting.

"We've received many complaints from our members who are primarily concerned about FTPSB's management inefficiencies, especially related to the replanting issue.

"With the appointment of Dato 'Dzulkifli as the new chairman, we hope that he could resolve this issue as soon as possible.

"NASH is seeking a meeting with Felda chairman YB Tan Sri Shahrir Abdul Samad to discuss and find better solutions to the issues faced by settlers," Aliasak added.



» (File pix) The National Association of Smallholders (Nash) lauds Dato' Dzulkifli Abdul Wahab's (pix) appointment as the new chairman for Felda Technoplant Sdn Bhd (FTPSB).

Source: New Straits Times



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CARGILL AND SOLIDARIDAD ESTABLISH PALM OIL SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM IN COLOMBIA

Cargill, in collaboration with the international nonprofit Solidaridad and the Colombian-based international trading company, C.I. Biocosta S.A., announced today a new palm oil smallholder sustainability program in Colombia aimed at improving agricultural practices and farmer livelihoods. The two-year effort will strengthen operations in cooperation with more than 480 palm farmers through training and technical assistance.

This is Cargill's first initiative in Latin America focused on responsible palm oil production. With Solidaridad and Biocosta, which is Cargill's supplier base for producers and mills, Cargill will promote the adoption of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil's Principles and Criteria. This will enable smallholders to increase productivity, profitability and market access with sustainable practices and eco-label certification.

"This program supports Cargill's

commitment to building a 100-percent transparent, traceable and sustainable palm supply chain by 2020," said Robert Horster, global trading director for Cargill's Edible Oils Solutions. "Our goal is to stimulate inclusion of Colombian farmers in the global palm oil market, boosting their livelihoods and establishing best practices in sustainable agriculture."

The producers in northwest Colombia who are involved in the program will receive direct training and support on good agricultural practices and improved farm management techniques covering key areas of health and safety, and environmental and social impact management.

"Solidaridad is pioneering sustainable approaches in the region and, through this engagement with Cargill and Biocosta, will ensure new economic opportunities for smallholders and the implementation of sustainable practices," said Maria Goretti Esquivel, palm oil programme manager of Solidaridad Colombia. "The

participation of international buyers, like Cargill, in this kind of initiative is key to fostering sustainability in the palm oil supply chain and advocating for changes in the sector."

Biocosta, a leader in Colombia's palm oil exports, includes about 700 smallholder farmers, accounting for nearly 50 percent of palm oil production in the northern region and driving socio-economic development.

Palm oil is one of the three main crops cultivated in Colombia after coffee and bananas. As the market for palm oil production in the country expands and brings economic growth to the region, best practices in agriculture, occupational health and environmental management are critical. In parallel with the new program, Cargill, Biocosta and Solidaridad will conduct a social and environmental impact study to evaluate high conservation value land and assess deforestation risks to fully integrate palm oil farmers into sustainable supply chains.

Source : PRNewswire



MALAYSIAN OIL SCIENTISTS' & TECHNOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION (MOSTA)

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PALM OIL INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS



PALM OIL ENGULFS COLOMBIA'S 'MOUNTAINS OF THE JAGUAR'

Thousands of small farmers were forced from their lands and homes by paramilitaries in Colombia's Santa María mountains, writes Paula Álvarez. But now as a welcome peace allows their return from involuntary exile, they find a new enemy that has come to stay - huge plantations of oil palm that have obliterated the mixed, patchwork landscape of small fields, villages, and swathes of forest on steep-sided hills that they used to inhabit.

Palm oil monoculture is expanding in the Montes de María mountains in Colombia, generating protests among communities who are left without lands.

Today it is almost impossible to see a jaguar in Montes de María, an environment where the jungle has been felled and which is now dominated by monocultures, such as teak or oil palm.

The feline king of the American jungles, which was deified by indigenous peoples and became a problem for European conquerors, is, however, still present in each of the cultural expressions in this region of the Colombian Caribbean.

Painted in murals, sung in songs or told in ancestral legends, the jaguar or 'tiger' as it is known locally, is the central figure of the peculiar Montemarian culture.

Legend has it that a sorcerer turned a hungry shepherd into a jaguar so he could eat the cow grazing in front of him. The only thing that the shepherd had to do to return to his human form was refrain from eating the animal's heart, but the 'shepherd tiger' couldn't

control himself and so his body has been forever struck in its animal form, and roams the mountains, roaring.

"Each one of us interprets the legend in our own way", explains Manuel de la Rosa, a young musician of San Juan de Nepomuceno, a town nestled among forested mountains in the Montes de María.

"With the onset of the war, many saw the jaguar as the guerrilla, there in the mountains, and its roar as the explosions characteristic of battles", added Manuel, who was displaced by the conflict three years ago and currently lives in the capital, Bogotá.

No one knows the origins of the legend, although it could have a pre-Columbian origin or have even been introduced in the region by the numerous African slaves that settled there after fleeing their Spanish masters in the coastal cities. Indigenous, Afro-Colombian and mestizo populations make up a melting pot of the



» No more jaguars here: a worker picks up African palm fruit for processing into palm oil from a young tree in Minas, Colombia, April 25, 2016. Photo: Carlos Villalón / Solidarity Center via Flickr (CC BY).

mountainous and jungle region of northern Colombia.

CLOSE TO A THIRD OF THE POPULATION FLED THE REGION BETWEEN 1998 AND 2008.

In the 1980s the war that was spreading throughout the country between the guerrilla groups and the state arrived here to stay. Montes de María was the scene of several of the worst massacres committed during a war that reached unimaginable levels of brutality.

According to Colombian government data, close to a third of the population fled the region between 1998 and 2008, leaving their villages at the mercy of the ghost of war.

After the demobilisation of the paramilitaries and the retreat of the guerrillas a decade ago, the fighting, attacks and kidnapping stopped, and the displaced population started to return to Montes de María.

But the region has been forever changed. Communities found themselves broken. The land has new owners and traditional crops like ñame (yam), cassava and banana have been replaced by a new coloniser: the African oil palm.

MONOCULTURE AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE WAR

By the side of the road going from María la Baja to El Playón, the oil palm is the queen of the landscape, interrupted only by an enormous treatment plant. The small fruit product of this palm, which originated in Africa, is transformed into oil for culinary, cosmetic and industrial purposes.

During the war, many displaced local peasants decided to sell their lands at any cost while they survived begging on the streets of Cartagena or Barranquilla. Others, having no access to bank credits, agreed to become partners with large agro-industrial companies - like the ones that are part of Fedepalma - committing themselves to cultivate oil palm for the next 20 years.

From the time of its creation this company ended up convincing many doubters by filling the gaps of a non-existent State in the region with the construction of schools and basic infrastructure. One way or another, the monoculture made its way to become practically the only form of agriculture in the area.

In the Afro-Colombian community of San Cristóbal a massacre was not needed to oblige 70% of the population to move away before death came to their homes. "What we can see is that,

through the armed conflict that was present, all the displacement had something hidden behind it all, which was land purchase on a massive scale", said Luis [fictitious name], now spokesman for the San Cristóbal Community Council, who was a child at the time.

In an interview in the main square of the municipality of San Jacinto, he added: "While we were leaving, others arrived, bought lands and stayed. We are reacting now and seeing who were the ones who came to our lands and the ones who murdered and displaced our people. There is a relationship."

In the case of Montes de María it has not been possible to prove in court the direct relationship between the palm oil agro-industry and the displacements that occurred at the hands of paramilitaries groups, as it is the case in the Chocó.

But it is interesting that massive land purchases by palm growers ('palmeros') followed the massacres, displacements and emptying of the territory, similar to what took place in other parts of the country like Chocó and Catatumbo.

AGROCHEMICALS THE CAUSE OF GASTROINTESTINAL AND SKIN DISEASES?

At the beginning of last year, dead fish began to float in the Arroyo Grande dam, a few kilometres from María la Baja. The Colombian Institute of Rural Development (Incoder) took samples, but never determined the reason why the dead fish were piled up on the banks of the reservoir.

Many inhabitants of the nearby villages believe chemicals used in the palm monocultures were responsible. They also believe the same chemicals are causing the gastrointestinal and skin illnesses experienced by the communities, and they had no alternative sources of water.

Abel Mercado, manager of the palm oil processing plant in Mampuján, denies a relationship between Fedepalma activities and problems with water in the region. "We must understand that this is a long-term project and we cannot just come and make problems for the communities.

We must live in a harmonious way”, he explains.

For the palm entrepreneur “under the model of alliance with small producers all the elements in the production chain benefit, and the crops generate work for people”, though he does recognise that oil palm cultivation does not sufficiently compensate for the lack of food crops in economic and food sovereignty terms.

To remedy this, Mercado assures his partners that they can include other types of crops other than oil palm on their lands, but currently there are thousands of uninterrupted hectares of only palm monoculture in María la Baja.

GRASS-ROOTS ALTERNATIVES AND RESISTANCE

As the road moves away from María la Baja and begins to go around the mountains in the direction of San Juan de Nepomuceno, the vast stretches of palm crops slowly disappear.

In this transition area between oil palm plantations of the north and teakwood plantations of the south, peasants have been able to organise themselves into cooperatives and resist the advance of monocultures.

Sixty-nine families have come together under an association called Asoagro to work in partnership on their lands and to create an economic project that is both respectful of their traditional forms of cultivation and economically viable. There, every farmer still owns his land, while the community has to give its approval for the sale of a plot to a third party.

“Grass-roots organisations like Asoagro have served as a protective shield to prevent land dispossession”, says Antonio [fictitious name], an Asoagro representative. “Logging companies have offered us a lot of money, but we don’t want it because the land gives us back much more than money when we work on it. I do not know what I could do with money, but I do know what I have to do with the land.”

The organisation, founded in 2004 by smallholder (campesino) victims of displacement, produces yams, cocoa,

and honey, among other products which now they are starting to export. It is one of the examples of grass-roots organisations emerging - and succeeding - in the area.

ECOTOURISM ONE ROUTE TO HARMONIOUS DEVELOPMENT

In the southern part of Montes de María lies La Esperanza, one of the few Zenu indigenous communities that still exists in the area. It has opted for community-managed tourism that respects the environment as an alternative to agribusiness.

“Teak and palm projects have been offered to us, but we have rejected them because we maintain our culture and our right to the environment, we live from nature”, explains the indigenous community leader (Captain) Isaías.

The Ecolosó ecotourism park, which includes a waterfall in the middle of a forested area, was approved this year despite the initial reluctance of some of the indigenous people to receive tourists in their region.

“It is a natural source, which can be damaged if used in excess, but we realise that if we properly manage it, we could improve the quality of life of the inhabitants and the visitors can take with them a very good image of the community once they are gone”, says Julia, a representative of the indigenous Cabildo (council).

Cansona Hill (cerro de la Cansona), belonging to the municipality of Carmen de Bolívar, is one of the few points more than 1,000 metres above sea level in Montes de María. From its summit there is a panoramic view encompassing the Arroyo Grande dam, the beginning of the 11,000 hectares of the oil palm monocultures of María la Baja and, on a clear day, the Caribbean Sea and the city of Cartagena de Indias.

On the top of the high mountain, young people like Steven, who is 24 years old, started to get organised in 2013 to try to prevent what was starting to look as a second wave of displacement after the one caused by the war.

“With the monoculture, we are going to be displaced again because we are

running out of land, and a campesino without land is not a campesino. Our identity is to sow”, explains Steven, member of the group ‘Youngsters Who Make Peace Happen’.

The monoculture has not yet arrived in this upland area as it has done at the foot of the mountains. Steven attributes this to greater organisation and peasant consciousness, like in San Juan or with the indigenous people of Esperanza:

“The difference is that the María la Baja area is not organised, so we got together and submitted a proposal of different grass-roots organisations stating that we didn’t want palm. They saw that we were organised and stopped asking.”

‘SOMEHOW, WE RESIST SO OTHERS RESIST TOO’

In the majority of cases, however, resistance from the bottom up collides with public policies functionally articulated with the interests of the private sector. People claim a place to live and eat, and the palm provides neither of them.

Meanwhile, traditional forms of cultivation, respectful of the environment and guarantor of at least a minimum of food sovereignty, are receding together with ancestral cultures. The Montemarian jaguar seems condemned to disappear entirely in the face of expansive agricultural methods.

Surrounded by oil palm crops, the rural settlement (vereda) of Mampuján, in María la Baja, is an island of resistance against the advance of monoculture. Its roads are not paved and almost all the houses are half finished. Carlos, a campesino who was displaced during the conflict along with 1,400 more people, explains why they continue to resist, against wind and tide, like a jaguar that defends its territory:

“When we work in the field, the sun is very strong, very hot. And we know that if we leave the machete and go in the shade, the others will go in the shade too. Therefore, we continue with the machete, working, even if the sun is overpowering. Somehow, we resist so others resist too.”

Source: *The Ecologist*

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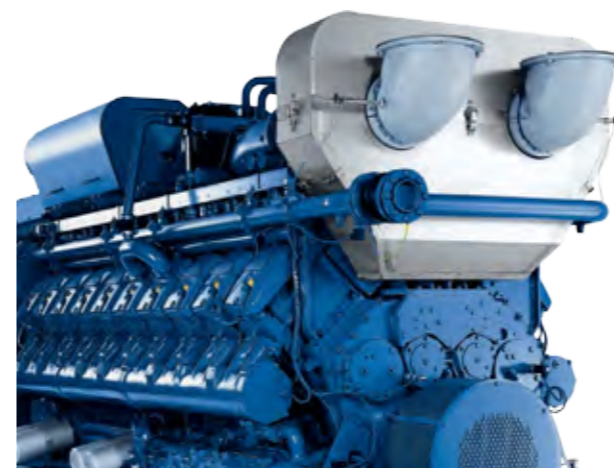


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Interview with

HARNARINDER SINGH

CEO OF MALAYSIAN PALM OIL CERTIFICATION COUNCIL (MPOCC)

01 Share with us a bit about yourself as the CEO of MPOCC?

I started my career by serving the Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia for more than 20 years. Forest certification was then brought into the mainstream due to pressure from international NGOs and I got the opportunity to join the Malaysia Timber Certification Council (MTCC). After serving MTCC for more than 15 years, the ministry then appointed me to assist in setting up of MPOCC. Prior to 2016, the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) had initiated Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) Certification Scheme, MPOCC is now tasked to further develop and implement the MSPO certification scheme.

02 Briefly share with us about Malaysian Palm Oil Certification Council (MPOCC).

Incorporated in December 2014, MPOCC is tasked to develop and operate the Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) Certification Scheme throughout the whole country. It started operations in October 2015 and is governed by a

13-Member Board of Trustees, with representatives from the oil palm industry associations, academic and R&D institutes, smallholders organisations, government, NGOs and civil society.

Vision: To be recognised as a leading organization for palm oil certification.

Mission: To establish and operate a credible and internationally recognised national palm oil certification scheme towards promoting sustainable management of oil palm in Malaysia.

Objectives:

- To establish and operate a sustainable palm oil certification scheme in Malaysia
- To engage with NGO's, institutions of higher learning, trade associations and accreditation & certification bodies in Malaysia
- To establish a mechanism for the certification of entities complying to the requirements of auditable sustainability standards

To provide credibility to the scheme, an accreditation



programme for since the formation of MPOCC, we have launched an accreditation program for oil palm management certification in June 2016, which requires certification bodies to be accredited by the Department of Standards Malaysia (DSM). So far 4 certification bodies have been accredited, while another 4 CBs are in the final stage of accreditation. A similar accreditation program for supply chain will also be developed once the supply chain certification standard has been finalized.

03 The Malaysian government requires all palm oil producers to get Malaysia Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) certification by the end of 2019. How will MPOCC assist the palm oil producers in getting the certification?

There are 7 principles in the MSPO Standards:

- Management commitment and responsibility
- Transparency
- Compliance to legal requirements
- Social responsibility, health, safety and employment conditions
- Environment, natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Best practices
- Development of new plantings

These 7 principles apply to independent smallholders, organized smallholders and oil palm plantation. While for palm oil mills, the first six only apply since mills are not involved in new plantings.

Independent smallholders are being approached in a different manner, where they are gathered to form Sustainable Palm Oil Clusters (SPOCs). The Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) is responsible to provide the SPOCs with technical and financial assistance to meet the cost of constructing some infrastructure such as stores to keep fertilizers and other chemicals and, purchasing of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). MPOB has been allocated some funds to provide such assistance. Currently there are more than 160 SPOCs around the country. The SPOCs have primarily been created to assist these independent smallholders in obtaining the MSPO certificate.

The MSPO certification is not a "one off" process that is valid forever. The MSPO certificate is valid for 5 years with annual surveillance audits. After the 5-year period,

the certificate holders will have to undergo recertification, usually against revised standards. Meanwhile, the auditing itself involves 3 types of processes which are Documentation Review, Communication and Field visit. MPOCC also provides training for the auditors in order to provide a uniform and consistent auditing process that is carried out by qualified and competent MSPO auditors.

04 What could be the challenges to get all palm oil producers certified?

- One of the main challenges is to get MSPO Scheme recognized and accepted particularly in environmentally sensitive markets for Malaysian palm oil products such as EU, US, Australia and so on.

- With the Existence of other palm related sustainability standards such as the RSPO and ISCC it is a challenge to have MSPO standards at par or even better than these standards. Nevertheless, we have strategies in place to make sure that all stakeholders in the country participate in the development and review processes for MSPO STANDARDS.

- Another challenge we feel that is to significantly increase the uptake of MSPO certification. Limited incentives for companies to embrace sustainability certification especially the smallholders, is one of the reasons for the slow uptake of MSPO. However we are already taking action towards providing to the industry players incentives for MSPO Certification.

05 Why are there needs to establish MSPO when RSPO is already in the market as they both seek to offer similar certifications? With RSPO being the leading certification body for sustainable palm oil, how would MPOCC differ from them? Would European palm oil buyers trust the MPOCC process as much as it does with RSPO and why?

While the RSPO scheme is a business-to-business arrangement, the MSPO certification scheme is a government initiative to provide assurance to Malaysian palm oil buyers and consumers that the palm oil originates from sustainably managed planted areas, and follow all laws and regulations of the country related to the oil palm industry, besides meeting the economic, environmental and social requirements of MSPO sustainability standards. We are confident that European palm oil buyers will trust the MSPO process as much as other certification processes, since the fundamentals of the MSPO process are very much similar to the other processes, covering all the elements that address sustainability and auditing process in compliance with international requirements that advocate third-party verification by independent accredited certification bodies.

The MSPO standards used are encompassing, the auditing and certification processes are robust, and the monitoring and evaluation processes are stringent. MSPO certification is a national initiative and commitment towards branding Malaysian palm oil and palm oil products originating from sustainability managed planted areas, including plantations and estates and areas managed by organize smallholders and independent smallholders.

06 By the middle of 2017, nearly a quarter million hectares planted areas have been MSPO certified, including 3,245.23 hectares of areas managed by organized and independent smallholders. How optimistic are you that these figures will increase in the coming years?

You are right in pointing out that the area certified under the MSPO certification system makes up only a small percentage of the total oil palm planted area of 5.74 million hectares in the country. However, MPOCC is confident that the MSPO certified area will increase significantly in the coming years with the implementation of mandatory MSPO certification by December 2019.

07 From your opinion, will there be really enough sustainable palm oil for the Malaysia market?

Yes, if we get enough areas certified, we will be able to produce enough sustainable palm oil for the market. Of course, the huge challenge and task in front of us is to get as many oil palm planted areas MSPO-Certified, not only the large plantations and private-owned estates but also the organized and independent small holders.

08 Last but not the least, would you like to share advice to the palm oil industry players?

As Sustainability certification is the way forward, the palm oil industry has to take every effort to move towards embracing MSPO certification. We are here to help the industry by providing theory briefing, technical briefing and so on, to make sure they are ready for the certification.



MALAYSIAN SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL 7 MSPO Principles

- 1 Principle 1**
Management commitment and responsibility
- 2 Principle 2**
Transparency
- 3 Principle 3**
Compliance to legal requirements
- 4 Principle 4**
Social responsibility, health, safety and employment conditions
- 5 Principle 5**
Environment, natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystem services
- 6 Principle 6**
Best practices
- 7 Principle 7**
Development of new plantings

MSPO Certification Scheme is the national scheme in Malaysia for oil palm plantations, and organised (Scheme) and independent smallholdings, and palm oil processing facilities to be certified against the requirements of the MSPO Standards.



MSPO Certification Scheme allows for oil palm management certification and supply chain certification, and provides for:

- Development of certification standards & scheme documents
- Accreditation requirements & notification of certification bodies
- Application by potential clients for certification audits
- Supply chain traceability requirements
- Peer reviewing of audit reports
- Issuance of logo usage licenses
- Procedures for handling of complaints
- Training and briefing to auditors & other stakeholders



For details, please contact:
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Interview with DAVID LIM SZU CHOM

CEO OF MASTECH CITY ENGINEERING (M) SDN. BHD.

A) ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND AND HISTORY.

Located at Kawasan Perindustrian Jasin, Mastech City Engineering (M) Sdn. Bhd was established on 5th January 2010. There are 3 founders, Mr. Lim Szu Chom, Mr. Ng Boon Teong and Mr. Oon Boon Huat, who are passionate, creative and possessing massive experience in the palm oil industry. They share a similar purpose, which is to realize a DREAM through the COMMUNITY and create HAPPINESS to the community.

MOTTO : 1-Solution

VISION : To EXCEL in all we do by achieving extraordinary results for our customers, building a satisfying career for our people, and earning a fair return on the value we deliver.

MISSION : Consistently delivering innovative solutions reinforced by responsive CUSTOMER SERVICE and a commitment to QUALITY and EXCELLENCE.

B) CEO PROFILE.

I'm 42 years old, born in Johor. I graduated in Electromechanical Engineering and also received PW4 and PW2 from Suruhanjaya Tenaga Malaysia. While gaining work experience in marketing which includes the Palm Oil industry.

As I'm always keen to challenge myself and to experience new things in life, I embarked in the palm oil business by setting up a company named Lim Electrical. Throughout the journey, I met two interesting men, Mr. Oon Boon Huat and Mr. Ng Boon Teong and realized we share the same passion and thus founded Mastech City Engineering (M) Sdn Bhd.

C) INTERVIEW QUESTIONS:

1. Share with us the range of products and services provided by Mastech City?

Mastech City Engineering (M) Sdn. Bhd. provides total engineering solutions especially for EFB Biomass Fuel Preparation System for Power Plant and Palm Oil Milling process which include Consultation, Design and Fabrication, Installation and Commissioning, and Excellent and Quality Post-project Maintenance and Service. Besides, we are also a 1-Stop centre for all spare parts required by palm oil industries and ranges from spare parts manufactured by our own foundry, from established local suppliers and imported proprietary equipment.

2. Almost a decade in palm oil industry, what are the factors that lead to Mastech City results today?

There are a few factors that lead Mastech City to this level, such as PASSION and HARD WORK. These are the elements



that drive us further. It certainly takes hard work and sacrifices in order to reach to the top. That is the recipe. But bear in mind to enjoy the process as well.

“ Hard Work and Fun is what life is all about – Richard Branson

FOCUSING on STRENGTH is another success factor too as it will enhance our capabilities in the industry. We practise continuously to aim for good results and concurrently catering for improvements from time to time. We remind ourselves to keep moving to achieve our goals.

Having a STRONG MINDSET is also integral to success in the business. Sometimes we might not have enough confidence or doubt ourselves, this is the time where we need to learn to overcome it. Too much of negativity does not help in building up a successful business. Every idea that we have no matter how big or small we need to endeavour to turn it into reality. Even a great idea is only an idea until you make it real.

PERSISTENCE is one of the keys for our success too. There are a lot of circumstances or difficulties along the journey which causes ups and down, being persistent we do not give up easily until we reach our goal.

“ Nothing is impossible, the word itself says I'm possible – Audrey Hepburn

3. What do you think is your greatest achievement throughout the journey? Any challenges?

The greatest achievement of mine is able to shift from different education background and knowledge to the palm oil line of business, furthermore able to build ties and initiate cooperation with some foreign palm oil industry players within 3 years time.

Moreover, the main challenge would be competitive competition from the industry, where sometimes I'm actually lack of confidence or having self doubt, which currently I'm working to overcome it.

4. What is Mastech City's competitive advantage that enables it to stand out against competitors?

Our outstanding job performance impress the markets, other than that we are able to deliver true results, focusing on strategic decisions and practical actions tailored to our client's unique reality by discussing and understanding.

“ If you build a great experience, customers tell each other about that. Word of mouth is very POWERFUL – Jeff Bezos



5. What is your ultimate goal for the company? Any development plans in the next coming 5 years?

Our ultimate goal is to be socially responsible. We believe that by working closely with the communities, we could make a genuine contribution to upgrade social's life by generating employment opportunities, then providing better life and welfare to all members of society.

Besides, we also aim to contribute towards the protection of environment by helping in creating a cleaner world for healthy life, restoration of nature for greener world for future generations.

As for the coming 5 years, we hope to bring the business to a higher level, which is to the eyes of the world by working with other palm oil industry players who is engaged directly or indirectly with the industry, to develop more efficient system for the growth. In other words, bring our image and service to the world. We can do it by sharing experiences, ideas and conduct research with local Research Centre or Universities and also Palm Oil Industry players from overseas.

6. Malaysian government had made it mandatory for all palm oil producers to get Malaysia Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) certification by end of 2019. What is your opinion about this issue and how well do you think it can help Malaysia palm oil sustainability?

In my opinion, it is good that the government make it mandatory for all palm oil producers to get Malaysia Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) certification, because it helps to ensure and guarantee the quality of palm oil products in



Malaysia. The employees' welfare are also being safeguarded through this, which will indirectly ensure a more stable growth to the company and the industry.

enormous contribution to the country's economy, environment and socially beneficial to government, customers, communities and the business itself. It is a long-life business that is worth to be well sustained.

7. Sharing is caring. Would you like to share any advice to the palm oil industry players?

Malaysia palm oil industry has been growing. It leads to

“ A company shouldn't get addicted to being shiny because shiny doesn't last – Jeff Bezos

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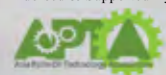


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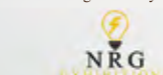
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1 - SOLUTION

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FOR POWER PLANT

CONSULTATION, DESIGNING, FABRICATION,
 INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

SCHMATIC DIAGRAM
 EFB BIOMASS FUEL
 PREPARATION SYSTEM



SPECIFICATION

Model : MC - EBS - 6MT #3
 Type : Horizontal Double Rotary Shaft
 Capacity : 4 ~ 5 Tons/Hr. of Raw EFB
 Weight : ± 3500 Kg



BENEFITS

- * No Pre-crushing Needed
- * Efficient Oil Recovery
- * Easy Maintenance
- * Fibre Size : 50mm ~ 125mm Long (± 90%)
- * Innovative Design : Easy Adaptive Into Existing Mills
- * Knives Life Span : 600 ~ 700 Hours
- * Collar Life Span : 1800 ~ 2100 Hours
- * Spare Parts : Easily Available, Own Foundary

SPECIFICATION

Model : MC - EBP - 12MT #3
 Type : Horizontal Twin Worm Screw
 Capacity : 8 ~ 10 Tons/Hr. EFB After Shred
 Weight : ± 4500 Kg



BENEFITS

- * Oil Recovery : 0.15%~0.5% from EFB
- * Life Span Of
 - Worm Screw : 600 ~ 1100 Hours
 - Press Cage : 400 ~ 800 Hours
 - Tapper Cone : 1200 ~ 1600 Hours
- * Spare Parts : Easily Available, Own Foundary
- * Fibre Usage : Biomass Fuel, Mulching, Etc.

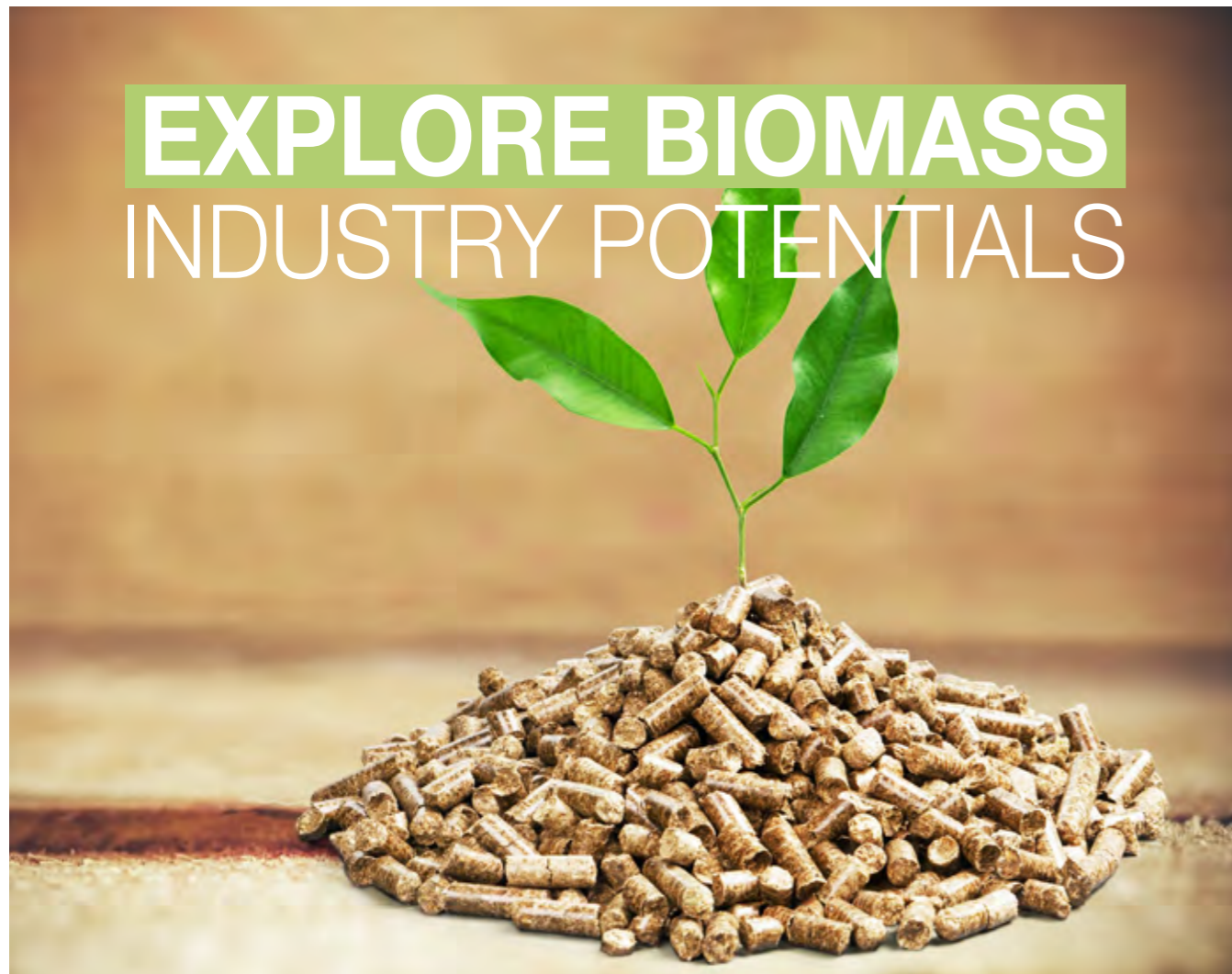
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EXPLORE BIOMASS INDUSTRY POTENTIALS

Industry players in the agricultural sector should explore the biomass industry's potential in becoming a game changer for Malaysia, both in terms of economic growth and enhancing the sustainability of the local resources, said Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong.

“This year, we are celebrating 100 years of oil palm cultivation in Malaysia, and yet we are still facing the challenges of sustainable palm oil production along its value chain.”

“One way to address this issue is through the biomass initiative, which promotes resource efficiency and sustainability in the palm oil industry,” he said in his keynote address at the

Malaysia Biomass Industry Networking Seminar here, today.

Mah said the players should be able to further develop the biomass industry and generate economic returns from the existing acreage of oil palm land, as well as mitigating the industry's environmental impact.

He said the oil palm plantations and mills had generated about 82 million tonnes of oil palm biomass last year.

“The mills had also generated about 57.31 million tonnes of palm oil mill effluent (POME) from processing 85.54 million tonnes of fresh fruit bunches,” he said, adding that the biogas from POME could be used to generate power for the mills and for grid connectivity.

Taking into account the abundant availability of biomass, especially from the oil palm sector, Mah said Malaysia should take advantage of the resource and maximise its full potential by moving further downstream and

creating opportunities in the high value sector.

“In this context, we must be relentless in developing and harnessing technologies and innovations to increase the value of our biomass resources, enabling the industry to become more resilient to the fluctuations in the global economy,” he said.

Meanwhile, Mah also announced the extension of deadline for the submission of entries for the International Competition on Oil Palm Mechanism (ICOPM) to June 30 from May 12, due to overwhelming response from the investors.

ICOPM is a competition aimed at inviting innovative and new ideas towards producing practical, cost-effective and field-ready innovations in oil palm mechanisation, as well as reducing dependency on labour and lowering production cost.

Source : Reuters



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An Innovation Biotechnology for Green World

TRANSFORMING AGRICULTURE TO PREVENT HAZE



The World Agroforestry Centre reports that oil palm industry wages are two to seven times greater than average agricultural wages in Indonesia. FILE PIC

THE majority of forest fires in Southeast Asia occur in states which grow palm oil, according to Global Forest Watch. Forests are cleared to make way for oil palm plantations. To save on clearing costs, farmers resort to burning.

While frameworks to stop haze are being established at the regional level as well as in countries like Indonesia and Malaysia, the challenge remains to get on board the actors who currently benefit from drained peatlands — the farmers, companies and investors profiting from oil palm.

Could a long-term solution for forest fire prevention in the region lie in promoting alternative commodities that can grow in wet peatlands?

The sine qua non, or the condition without which fires can start and spread, is the presence of dry peatlands.

Peatlands are naturally wet swamps of decomposed matter. They are nutrient-rich, but extremely flammable when dry. Yet, farmers resort to draining these swamps because oil palm can only grow in dry soil.

The initiative of restoring peatlands to their naturally wet state has been emphasised by Indonesia. However, unless the practice of draining peatlands is addressed, haze will continue to be a challenge.

At the root is the choice of oil palm as the dominant crop for growing. This happens for two key reasons. First, oil palm is highly profitable and offers higher wages than other crops.

The World Agroforestry Centre reports that oil palm in Indonesia yields profits of up to 44 million to 295 million rupiah (US\$3,300 to US\$22,000) per hectare per annum, and oil palm wages are two to seven times greater than average agricultural wages in the country.

The other reason is the short lead time in growing oil palm, taking three to four years before bearing fruit (with some gestation period before harvesting). This short lead time reduces the risks to investors who wish to invest in oil palm, in comparison with plants such as sago, which can take 10 to 15 years before harvest.

To prevent farmers and private companies from draining peatlands, it must be economically sustainable to keep them wet. Alternative commodities that can be grown in peatlands need to be leveraged while meeting three key conditions.

First, they must grow in natural wet peat conditions. Second, they must compete with oil palm in profitability, to translate into equivalent or higher wages to farmers, and returns to investors. And, third, they must be able to reduce investor risk by having shorter lead time periods before harvest.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations has already identified commodities that can grow in naturally wet peat conditions. These include sago, papyrus, wild rice, wetland taro, water celery, water spinach, and Chinese water chestnut.

Apart from these, there are plants that can grow in moderately drained peatlands, such as rice, bananas, beans, carrots, celery, corn, lettuce, mint, onions, potatoes, parsley, radish, pasture-sod, sugar cane chili, soya bean, tobacco and a few horticultural crops.

The challenge, however, is that there is limited information on which of these commodities meet the second and third conditions, of comparable profitability and time taken before investors start getting net positive returns on their investments.

Among the limited studies available, one shows that if sago was chosen as

alternative crop to explore, it takes sago 10 to 15 years before it can start bearing fruit, and that the internal rate of return is up to 8.06 per cent, still low compared with 20 per cent if oil palm was planted.

Alternatively, some crops can be grown in less than a year, like radish or celery, but it is not known if there will be sufficient demand. Additional preparations may be needed, such as reducing the acidity of the soil, preventing pests and diseases, or increasing the value-add of producers through additional processing.

There is a need for more research and institutional support in improving the desirability of producing alternative commodities, in both the demand and supply side. These need to be considered in developing and implementing long-term rehabilitation plans.

Demand-side interventions include research on identifying which among the identified alternative commodities are in demand, who the buyers are, what qualities and traits they desire, and what prices they are sold at. Buyers may include domestic buyers within Indonesia and Malaysia, as well as importers from higher income countries abroad. In Japan, for instance, youth are leaving the agricultural sector, creating opportunities for countries like Indonesia to provide select crops.

Supply-side interventions require identifying technologies that can allow for meeting buyer requirements, while

at the same time being cost effective to producers.

Research will be needed to boost yields in producing the commodities, such as through resistance to submergence or flooding, pests, and diseases.

For instance, if heavy research led to growth in the productivity of cassava production, from just six tonnes per hectare to up to 30 tonnes per hectare, can this not be done in the case of the crops identified by FAO?

Along with boosting yields, it will also be important to hasten the time before crops can be harvested. Research at the National Institute of Education, Singapore, for instance, show that certain planting systems and growing environments can shorten grow-out periods.

Agricultural transformation will have an important part to play in addressing haze, but this requires farmers, businesses, investors, academia, and governments play their part.

**The writer is Associate Research Fellow at the Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

Source: New Straits Times



INDONESIA ROUTE IN ADOPTING BIODIESEL

MALAYSIA is in the final stages of implementing the B10 biodiesel despite the many speed bumps and potholes in the way.

With this in mind, the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) invited the Malaysian media and several stakeholders to experience Indonesia's journey towards implementation of its biodiesel initiatives.

In Indonesia, the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry is the driving force behind the implementation of biodiesel.

We recently met up with the Direktorat Jenderal Energi Baru Terbarukan dan Konservasi Energi (EBTKE) to find out how Indonesia was able to leapfrog Malaysia and many other countries in the usage of biodiesel nationally.

Our first stop was the government agency responsible for carrying out Indonesia's Kebijakan Energi Nasional (KEN) policy.

Under Peraturan Menteri (PerMen) ESDM No. 20/2014, Indonesia

started testing biodiesel and the mandatory implementation of biodiesel consumption with a target of B20 implementation by January last year and B30 in the 2020.

EBTKE tested B20 with many stakeholders that included Pertamina, vehicle manufacturers, biodiesel producers and even Gaikindo (Indonesian Industry Development Compartment).

Through PerMen ESDM No. 26/2016, the exercise has;

- Generated more than 385,000 jobs.
- Prevented 4.5 million tonnes of CO2 emissions.
- Increased the income of palm oil farmers by 25 per cent.
- Reduced their reliance on imported fossil fuels by US\$1.1 billion (RM4.7 billion).

The next stop of our tour was a briefing by Gaikindo on the extensive testing of the B100 pure palm biodiesel component that is used for blending B20 as well as the testing of B20 on the roads of Indonesia.

Testing started in 2014 and focused on potential problems related to engine components and also the Fatty Acid Methyl Ester (FAME) biodiesel itself.

With regards to engines, the higher concentration of FAME reportedly resulted in rough idling, engine stalling, insufficient power output and deterioration of components.

Gaikindo then came up with recommendations to improve engine component coatings and the Indonesian industry standards (then SNI 04-7182-2006) related to B100 biodiesel to specifically to improve oxidation stability and reduce precipitates and solubility.

It is worth noting that our own Malaysian Standard for B100 is much stricter and harder to achieve than the Indonesian version.

Indonesia's road testing covered more than 100,000km and with three different manufacturers. Their testing and the extensive roadshow by EBTKE was crucial to the acceptance of the public towards B20 biodiesel.



Next, we went on a tour of the Pertamina biodiesel blending facilities in Tanjung Priok, close to Jakarta.

B20 is called BioSolar as opposed to pure diesel, which is branded Solar by Pertamina. In 2014, Pertamina used a method called In-Tank blending for biodiesel, whereby the FAME and diesel were blended directly into the tanker trailers. Nowadays, they are utilising in-line pipe blending, which is a better and more practical method.

A more informal meeting with the Indonesian Trucking Association was held later.

This meeting was much looked forward to by members of the Malaysian delegation, including the deputy president of the Pan-Malaysian Lorry Owners Association and the president of the Association of Malaysian Hauliers, as it involved the actual end users of B20 biodiesel.

According to them, when B10 and even B15 was implemented, they ran their trucks as per normal. But with the implementation of B20, they experienced problems with the fuel filters of their vehicles.

They quickly found that by training their drivers to clean the fuel filters regularly and by utilising a second in-line filter, they could circumvent the problem entirely and at a negligible cost.



In the end, they surmised that the implementation of KEN was a good thing for their nation and supported the policy entirely.

MPOB representative Dr Harrison Lau said: "(The) Jakarta trip was a very fruitful learning trip as our local representatives from the haulage and lorry associations were exposed to first-hand information regarding hazard-free implementation of biodiesel in Indonesia.

"More importantly, the diesel quality and diesel engine technology for both countries are within the same range. This proves that (technically)

the Malaysian B10 biodiesel initiative will not pose any technical risks to any stakeholders and end users."

Indonesia has plans to increase FAME content gradually and their KEN policy stretches to the year 2050. It is wise that Malaysians should also have similar goals and outlook for the sake of the environment.

We came away from the trip with a newfound respect for our neighbour's tenacity in implementing their biodiesel policy and their citizen's patriotism in supporting their government policies.

Source: New Straits Times



controversy, with farmers accused of illegally using slash-and-burn methods to clear land for plantations, destroying rainforests and habitats for animals including orangutans. In 2015, the practice was blamed for causing a severe haze that blanketed parts of Asia, disrupting air travel, causing early deaths and costing the region's economies billions of dollars.

ENVIRONMENT

Concerns about the environmental and social impacts of palm oil have seen increased scrutiny from non-governmental organizations, including the use of drones to monitor for land clearing. Some groups such as Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund issue scorecards that rate buyers on their use of sustainable palm oil. In 2004, the industry formed the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil to set standards on issues including the environment and labor and issue certifications.

Agriculture contributed 8.9% of Malaysia's gross domestic product in 2015, with palm oil making up 47% of the sector, government data show. There are more than 600,000 smallholders and 4 million workers involved directly and indirectly in the palm oil industry, according to the Malaysian Palm Oil Board. The country is seeking to increase revenue from palm oil under the 1Malaysia Biomass Alternative Strategy, which aims to create more than 66,000 new jobs and increase the industry's contribution to Malaysia's gross national income by RM30 billion.

Source: The Edge Market

SOAP TO CHOCOLATE:

WE CONSUME 17 POUNDS OF PALM OIL EACH YEAR

Pick up any package in a supermarket and there's about a 50% chance it's got palm oil in it.

The world's most-used cooking oil is in everything from pizza dough to ice cream and shampoo. Global per capita consumption has more than doubled since 2000 to 7.7 kilograms (17 pounds) in 2015, according to data from Gro Intelligence. Malaysia and Indonesia grow about 85% of the world's supply.

Palm oil is so popular because it's got a high resistance to oxidation, meaning it has a long shelf life and making it useful for frying as well as being suitable for hot climates, according to R.E.A. Holdings Plc, a London-based

company with plantations in Indonesia, the world's top grower. The oil is also used in soaps and detergents and as a feedstock in biofuel production. Fatty acid derived from palm oil is used to make cosmetics and pharmaceuticals.

PLANTATIONS EXPAND

Oil palms, which are native to Africa, were introduced to Malaysia by the British in the 1870s as an ornamental plant. The commercial industry in the country then known as Malaya began in 1917 after Henri Fauconnier planted crops in Selangor, on the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia, after visiting a plantation in Indonesia to obtain

seedlings, according to the Malaysian Palm Oil Council.

Expansion was supported as part of a government measure to alleviate poverty by increasing agricultural output, with palm oil plantations replacing rubber from 1961. The oil became Malaysia's main economic crop in 1989. Production has surged more than threefold since 1990 to a record 19.96 million metric tons in 2015, before El Nino-linked drought curbed output last year, Malaysian Palm Oil Board data show. World output is also increasing with demand accelerating as more is used to make biofuels, especially in Indonesia.

The expansion in Malaysia and Indonesia hasn't been without

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TECH: IJM PLANTATIONS EMBARKS ON DIGITALISATION OF ESTATE OPERATIONS



THESE days, Deky Yahya, a field staff at IJM Plantations Bhd, does not have to manually key in the statistics that he collects from the group's estates in the Sugut region in Sabah. With the Samsung tablet that he uses to gather information on harvesters' fresh fruit bunch (FFB) collection, Deky can quickly upload the data to the computers back at the estate's office instead of having to perform the tedious task of data entry that he had had to do in the past.

Deky can also capture images of bunches, along with their precise locations, using his tablet since the device is GPS-enabled. This means that estate managers not only have the ability to easily track and trace harvesters' real-time activities on the ground, they can also see for themselves the quality of the fruits and know exactly where problem areas are without having to be in the field.

Apart from the ease of transferring the field data into Excel sheets and the instant generation of reports on the quality of fruits, data such as staff attendance is also captured and processed for payment of wages and incentives. Other aspects of field inspection are also included.

The digitalisation of IJM Plantations kicked off at its Desa Talisai Estate in Sandakan last November. It plans to have its entire Sabah operation — covering 25,051ha of planted area — digitalised by the end of the financial year ending March 31, 2018 (FY2018).

The cost of the exercise — both for hardware and software — is expected to total RM500,000.

"The digital supervision enables us to harness the GPS signals with Android-based handheld devices in tracking plantation activities with a web-based back-end system," says IJM Plantations CEO Joseph Tek.

"Our motivation is to have a culture of continuous improvement within our organisation, appreciating the cost-benefits and managing the change in our people," he adds.

The response from its workers has been encouraging.

"It is gratifying to observe the behaviour change and how digitalisation has created excitement and a sense of accomplishment, especially among the younger Gen Y staff," says Tek.

According to him, IJM Plantations is still at the early stage of implementation, with digitalisation still being rolled out at its estates where there is no replanting as yet. It is envisaged that digitalisation will lead to more transparency, a proactive staff force and effective supervision, along with enhancement in quality assurance.

The group has also adopted geospatial technologies, drones and unmanned aerial vehicles for slope analysis, mapping of its estates, terrace measurement and assessing the growth of its oil palm trees, among others.

The capture of its workers' harvesting activities is only the first phase of IJM Plantations' digitalisation move. The company hopes to expand it to crop evacuation and manuring



monitoring under the second phase.

"Pragmatic and site-specific mechanisation initiatives are being carried out to address the shortage of workers. This involves implementing various approaches to date for in-field crop evacuation. More thrusts on mechanisation will be pursued to cover other aspects of estate operations," says Tek.

The mechanisation efforts refer to the use of scissor lifts, motorised wheelbarrows, hook lifts and bin systems, among others.

It is worth noting that the shortage of labour in the plantation sector has been the driving force for companies to focus on mechanisation.

IJM Plantations is a 56.1%-owned subsidiary of IJM Corp Bhd. It owns and manages 59,595ha of oil palm estates in Sabah as well as Sumatra and Kalimantan in Indonesia.

It is noteworthy that IJM Plantations has chosen a different route for its sustainability certification from some of its larger peers, which have opted for the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil certification.

"We decided to adopt a staged certification process in our Malaysian operation with the Malaysian Sustainable Palm

Oil certification, and then the International Sustainability and Carbon Certification (ISCC), whereby we receive premiums when selling ISCC palm oil ... [We have] the Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil mandatory certification at our Indonesian operation," Tek explains.

He says the decision was based on the varying requirements of the different certification schemes, set against the priorities and resources of a mid-sized organisation that recognises the financial prudence in managing cost containment measures while meeting the assurance required.

"We have deemed that these are adequate to provide the required assurance on sustainable palm oil production while not compromising on our many ongoing sustainability-related initiatives covering both the social and environmental aspects of our business and our continuity to embrace the many principles and criteria for sustainable palm oil production," says Tek.

Last Friday, IJM Plantations announced net profit of RM22 million for its fourth quarter ended March 31, 2017, compared with net loss of RM16.5 million the year before. Revenue rose 67.4% to RM192.63 million.

For the full financial year, it saw net profit of RM115.08 million — almost five times higher than that in FY2016 — while revenue rose 35.2% to RM753.711 million.

The improved financial performance was mainly due to higher commodity prices and net foreign exchange gains compared with losses the previous year.

Tek tells The Edge in an email that an increase in earnings will be seen in FY2019 when IJM Plantations' FFB production hits one million tonnes. For FY2017, the group produced 862,000 tonnes of FFB.

The increase will come from its Indonesian estates when the oil palm trees reach prime age. At present, the average age of the group's palm trees is 9.3 years while that of its Indonesian palm trees is close to six years.

But the weather, availability of workers, pests and diseases are factors that could affect production.

In fact, IJM Plantations expects to see the lingering effects of 2015's "monster" El Niño up to the third quarter of this year. "We could still be subject to the latter lag effect arising from the El Niño drought of 3Q2015 at our Indonesian operation, along with a similar tail-end effect at our Malaysian operation. However, this will have a lesser impact vis-à-vis the immediate lag effect from El Niño," Tek explains.

"With more areas at our Indonesian operation reaching maturity, we hope that a full recovery in crop production will be realised by end-2017 and moving into FY2019. Our relatively young age profile will continue to put us in a favourable position in terms of the recovery of crop production and to capture long-term growth and enhance shareholder value," he says.

Last Thursday, IJM Plantations closed at RM3.13, giving it a market capitalisation of RM2.76 billion.

Source: The Edge Market

NEW HOLLAND AGRICULTURE: SOWING THE SEEDS OF AGRICULTURE SINCE 1895

Oil palm growers share the biggest challenge of today's world farming system: managing the impact of agriculture on soil, water and the atmosphere. Technology and innovations can address this challenge, and New Holland offers farmers a complete range of solutions thanks to the expertise it has developed in more than 120 years at the forefront of mechanisation and its commitment to sustainability. In fact, New Holland Agriculture tractors are at work in many plantations, where they are used for crop land preparation, harvesting and haulage, and general plantation maintenance.

Your sustainable farming partner with more than a century of innovation

New Holland Agriculture's heritage goes back to 1895. Since then, its history has been one of continuous innovation and dedication to making agriculture easier and more productive for the world's farmers. Founders include Abe

Zimmerman, the "father" of the New Holland Machine company and Henry Ford, the man who mechanised world agriculture and brought agricultural tractors to the masses, and in 2017 New Holland celebrates 100 years since the first mass produced tractor was developed, the Fordson Model F.

Over the decades, New Holland enabled farmers, contractors and agribusinesses around the world to increase their productivity with a more efficient use of precious resources in all aspects of crop production.

With state-of-the-art manufacturing plants and Centres of Excellence across the globe, New Holland continuously raises the bar on its machines' performance to provide farmers with the tools to maximise the productivity of their fields. Today it offers the largest choice of next generation easy-to-operate tractors, harvesters and material handling equipment, with more than 80 product lines and over 300 models. Most importantly, it supports its customers with effective parts and service support, as well as tailored financial services,

through its widespread network of professional dealers worldwide.

Established presence in South East Asia since 1927

New Holland Agriculture made its first appearance on the South East Asian markets in 1927, when the first Fordson tractor was imported to Malaysia. Since then, it has supported the mechanisation of farms across the region, introducing innovative technologies that have changed the industry, with a product offering capable of meeting the different requirements of growers, as well as the support and advice of its highly trained dealers and technicians.

New Holland uses its resources to develop after sales support to meet the diverse needs of Southeast Asian countries as they evolve, and it is currently going through a period of growth and expansion in the region. **Indonesia** and **Malaysia** are promising markets for its business, particularly in connection with the palm oil industry.



Palm oil production is vital for the economies of those two countries, accounting for 84% of the world's production (source: GreenPalm, data from Oil World, 2016). Oil palm growers – be they large-scale farming operations or smallholdings – rely heavily on tractors for in-field collection and haulage due to the tough ground conditions in remote areas and a growing shortage of labour.

Indonesia and Malaysia: palm oil production world leaders mechanise plantations

The demand for palm oil has accelerated in last few decades and, with the recent biodiesel mandates enacted

around the world, there is no expectation of it slowing down. Indonesia and Malaysia dominate production thanks to their early adoption of integrated plantation systems and large-scale modern refineries.

The Indonesian palm oil production has shown a dramatic growth in the past 15 years, driven by the sharp increase in global demand and higher yields. Production has rocketed from 19.2 million tons in 2008 to 32 million tons in 2016 with exports rising from 15.1 to 27 million tons in the same period (sources: Indonesian Palm Oil Producers Association and Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture, 2016).

New Holland has been supporting the country's oil palm growers with

advice on mechanisation and after-sales service provided by its experienced distributor, **PT. Altrak 1978**. In its 39 years' experience in the market, the company built a strong relationship with its Indonesian customers and today it operates from 34 branches across Indonesia. The highly trained after-sales team, supported by modern IT systems and a well-stocked parts warehouse, provide fast and efficient service support.

New Holland offers Indonesian oil palm growers a wide range of tractors, of which the TT45 and TT35 are new players, being very well suited for in-field collection in the plantations. The wide offering also includes the TD90, 6610S, 7610S and TS6 Series tractors.

Palm oil production is also vital for the economy of Malaysia, which is the second largest producer in the world. Cultivation of oil palm took off in the 1960s, as the government introduced a programme to diversify the country's agriculture and reduce its dependency on rubber and tin. The industry has continued to grow, driven by the unstoppable rise in global demand for palm oil, and today oil palm plantations account for 71% of the total cultivation area and 91% of total crop production. (sources: Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, Malaysia; Ipsos Business Consulting market Survey and Analysis, 2014).

New Holland offers Malaysian oil palm growers a complete range of tractors: the TT45 for platform loading and handling, TT4.80 and TT4.90 for general haulage, and the 7610S and TS6.110 for heavy-duty haulage operations. In Malaysia and Brunei, **Sime Darby Industrial** (a division of the diversified multinational Sime Darby Group), supports corporate growers across the territory with 23 branches and four parts depots, and **Pertubuhan Peladang Kebangsaan (NAFAS)** plays a significant role in government plantations.

As the oil palm sector strives for increasing productivity through higher yields in order to increase production without extending plantations, New Holland is at the side of growers of all sizes, ready to meet their requirements for haulage and in-field collection with its wide range of durable, efficient and cost effective tractors.



ALL OIL PALM PLANTATIONS TO BE CERTIFIED

All oil palm plantations in the country will be certified within three years, says Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong.

The Plantation Industries and Com-modities Minister said at present, only 4% of the 5.7 million hectares of plantations nationwide has been certified under the Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil Certification Scheme.

“The Government aims to get larger estates certified by next year and smallholders in 2019.

“This shows our commitment to producing sustainable palm oil.

“Certifying all our plantations is going to cost us a lot of money but we are going to do it. It’s a long term investment,” he told reporters after attending Gerakan Youth election camp at Wisma PGRM yesterday.

Mah was responding to the European Parliament’s resolution last month to introduce a single certification scheme for palm oil entering the EU market and

phase out the use of vegetable oils that drive deforestation by 2020.

He added that Malaysian delegates would meet the European Commission and European Parlia-ment representatives in Brussels next month with Indonesia to discuss the matter.

On party’s matters, the Gerakan president said about half of the 45 proposed candidates for the next general election were new faces.

“Almost a third of them are from the youth wing,” he said.

Mah said the party would await clearance from the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) on the list of proposed names.

“If the MACC has any doubts, we won’t submit the names to the Prime Minister and Barisan Nasional supreme council.

“We take this very seriously to ensure all potential candidates of the party are clean and accountable,” said Mah.

Source : The Star Online



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NAJIB ANNOUNCES RM510MIL ALLOCATION FOR PALM OIL SMALLHOLDERS



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has announced an allocation of RM510mil for oil palm replanting and new crop planting for smallholders as part of celebrations commemorating 100 years of commercial oil palm planting in Malaysia.

"I hope that this will be able to alleviate the financial burden of smallholders when carrying out replanting and new crop planting for palm oil, and at the same time ensuring that the country's oil production is able to meet market demands," said Najib to a crowd of 5,000 at Sime Darby's Tennamaram Estate here Tuesday.

Malaysia is the second largest producer of palm oil in the world after Indonesia.

Oil palm plantations currently occupy over five million hectares, while palm oil accounts for almost 6% of Malaysia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

According to the Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC), our country currently accounts for 29% of world palm oil production and 37% of world exports.

Najib commended the Malaysian oil palm industry for mastering the downstream sector as well as research, development and commercialisation.

Since 2011, Najib said the Government had allocated more than RM500mil in grants to palm oil companies and companies that produce oil palm products.

Looking towards the future of the industry, Najib said the Government was taking steps towards sustainability by adopting the Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) initiative, which will be made compulsory from Dec 31 2019.

MSPO is aimed at taking the industry to a higher level of sustainability and transparency throughout the entire supply chain by requiring all groups of producers to meet a broad range of standards.

Najib said the move is aimed to improve accessibility and competitiveness as well as giving an advantage to Malaysia in the global oil palm market.

"To ensure that the producers of palm oil, especially smallholders, are not burdened in implementing the MSPO scheme the government will provide support and give incentives

to industry players implementing MSPO," said Najib.

He urged oil palm companies to produce sustainable palm products and focus on "zero waste" and environmentally-friendly practices.

"Use the waste materials of oil palm and the methane gas that is produced," said Najib.

He also urged the oil palm industry to move forward and improve its level of mechanisation and automation through the use of technology and innovation.

"Thus, through efforts and initiatives, I am confident that the industry will continue to excel, not only to TN50 or another 100 years, but for five more centuries," said Najib.

At the event, Najib also launched a special edition stamp and coffee table book.

Special recognition was also accorded to Henri Fauconnier, the pioneer of the palm oil industry in Malaysia.

Najib presented an award to Fauconnier's great grandson Jeremie Fontaine at the celebration.

In addition, Felda Taib Andak Kulai received an award for the first government palm oil land scheme and Tennamaram Estate for the first commercial plantation.

Also present at the celebration was Plantation Industries and Commodities Minister Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong, Deputy Plantation Industries and Commodities Minister Datuk Datu Nasrun Datu Mansur, Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Minister Tan Sri Noh Omar, Sime Darby Berhad chairman Tan Sri Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, Sime Darby Berhad president Tan Sri Datuk Seri Mohd Bakke Salleh and Malaysia Palm Oil Association chairman Datuk Franki Anthony Dass.

Source : The Star



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NEW SEEDLINGS WILL SEE 'HIGHEST' PALM OIL YIELDS IN THE INDUSTRY

A

subsidiary of the world's second largest palm oil plantation company has cultivated a new palm planting material allowing an increase of oil yields to the highest levels in the industry.

Smart Tbk, a subsidiary of Golden-Agri Resources, has registered two clones of high-yielding oil palm plant material in Indonesia's Catalogue of Seeds, receiving approval for use from the Ministry of Agriculture.

Labelled Eka 1 and Eka 2, the new seedlings will allow the company to increase yields without increasing land use. Under optimal conditions, current palm oil yields stand at around 8 tonnes per hectare per year. Smart Tbk's seeds could increase that number to 10 tonnes of crude palm oil per hectare per year.

President Director PT SMART Tbk, Daud Dharsono, said: "This kind of breakthrough is at the heart of our intensification efforts, which we see as essential to delivering sustainable production of palm oil to meet a growing global demand. We will continue to identify new technologies and accelerate the adoption of the latest modern techniques to enhance not only our own sustainable agricultural practices, but those of the industry as a whole."

The new seedlings were developed naturally through a conventional selection programme and tissue culture from elite palms. They are the result of two decades of collaboration between SMARTRI and Smart's Biotechnology Centre.

Head of Smart's Plant Production and Biotechnology Division Dr Tony Liwang said: "Tissue culture helps us propagate planting materials through a non-GMO process that produces more crude palm oil, and in the near future, it will help to produce planting materials that make better use of nutrients and are more resistant to both disease and drought. With the success to date of our tissue culture programme, we can expect to see substantially higher yields with Eka 1 and Eka 2, and greater oil extraction levels from the fruit itself."

At prime maturity, the Eka 1 seedlings are expected to yield 10.8 tonnes of crude palm oil (CPO) per hectare, with oil extraction levels of 32 percent due to the exceptionally high ratio of oil in the fruit. The Eka 2 seedlings show even greater promise, with expected yields of 13.0 tonnes per hectare and oil extraction levels of 36 percent. In addition, Eka 1 and Eka 2's expected time to harvest is 24 months, compared to the current industry average of 30 months, according to a statement.

Source: Biofuels International Magazine

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PLANTER MOVES TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY

BOUSTEAD Plantations Bhd is implementing various measures to enhance its operational efficiency to offset the impact of lower crude palm oil (CPO) prices.

Vice-chairman Tan Sri Lodin Wok Kamaruddin said the upstream oil palm plantation company expected its earnings to be affected by lower CPO prices from the third quarter of this year.

"The challenge is how much the prices will go down. With various actions taken by our group, we hope the measures can improve our efficiency in operations, production and yield," Lodin told NST Business recently.

"We expect the CPO prices to remain between RM2,400 and RM2,800 per tonne until the third quarter of this year."

He said Boustead Plantations was able to get healthy returns from its plantation operations in the last five months.

“Even if there is a decline in earnings, overall we expect our financial performance this year to be better than last year.**”**

The company is focusing on improving its operational cost with the introduction of a better system for planting, application of fertilisers and managing the estates.

"We believe we can reduce the cost of production further to mitigate some of the impacts on the expected reduction in CPO prices towards the later part of this year.

"Efficiency in managing the estates is equally important to get better yields and higher production," said Lodin.

Boustead Plantations expects higher CPO production to continue from next month until early next year.

For the first quarter ended March 31, its revenue surged 38.1 per cent to RM189 million from RM136.9 million recorded in the same period a year ago. This was attributed to buoyant palm product prices and better crop production.

Profit increased 2.6 per cent to RM43.7 million from RM42.6 million previously.

Boustead Plantations announced a first interim dividend of 2.5 sen per share payable on Friday.

Lodin said the improved first-

THE PLANTER'S CORNER



result in a build-up of inventories.

As of April, its CPO inventory stood at about 1.6 million tonnes compared with 2.6 million tonnes a year ago.

Lodin said the low inventory was due to encouraging demand in the last few months as consumers added more stockpile in preparation for festivities such as Hari Raya and Deepavali.

“The demand had been quite good for the last five months, which prompted the price to move up to about RM3,300 per tonne.**”**

"Most plantation companies have been able to register higher price average this year compared with last year."

He also said the ringgit fluctuation would affect its revenue contribution as CPO trading was done in the US dollar.

Source : New Straits Times

quarter result was due to higher palm product selling prices and improved crop production.

As crops recover from the effects of the El Nino phenomenon, the uptrend is expected to continue. However, CPO prices will likely be mitigated by the bumper crop of soyabean in the United

States and South America, coupled with growing pressures on biodiesel supplies to the United States and Europe as well as low crude oil prices," he added.

Lodin said the market was expected to remain challenging in the second half of this year, with the possibility of higher CPO production which could

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EVENTS HIGHLIGHT

OLEO INDUSTRY LEADERS HEAD TO YOGYAKARTA FOR CMT'S 5TH OLEOCHEMICALS OUTLOOK

On 23-24 August, 2017 in Grand Aston Yogyakarta, CMT's 5th Oleochemicals Outlook summit hones in on better margins and sustainable sourcing, as Asia confronts looming overcapacities and volatile palm oil prices.

The annual gathering of oleochemical industry returns to the hub of palm oil and oleochem value chain – Indonesia that aims to increase palm oil exports this year – with 1.5 million tons expected from the oleochemical industry. But will current world economic factors impact the oleochem trade patterns in the region? PT Bank CIMB Niaga shares his views via a key session on 'Global Economic Outlook' with details of US economic forecast under the new administration as well as China & India's economic reforms and its impact on Asia. LMC International will provide an analysis of 'Global Oleochemicals Market Trends' highlighting current demand/supply forecast across Asia, US, Latin America and Europe.

Emery Oleochemicals will unveil their sustainability plans along the lines of digital tractability and big data via paper 'Evidencing Impact On Sustainability Agenda' while Wilmar International gives details on 'Oleochemistry and Derivatives in the Lubricants Market and various other Markets' pinpointing uses of natural oils, oleochemicals, esters in lubricants as well as the drivers, legislation and trends in bio-degradable lubricants. Brand owner Johnson & Johnson is sharing its perspective on

'Sustainable & Strategic Sourcing Strategy' – especially the evolving trends in the consumer goods industry and CavinKare details India's Personal Care Industry Trends & Opportunities.

In view of Indonesia's 20% biodiesel blending (B20) policy to non-subsidized diesel fuel starting late last year, the summit has Indonesian Association of Biofuel Producers (APROBI) outlining details of the country's 'Biodiesel Industry Development & Challenges'.

Organized by Centre for Management Technology (CMT), other key sessions at summit include:

- KPMG Services – Asia's Palm Oil Market Outlook & Trends
- Olam International – Africa's Palm Oil & Derivatives Growth Trends
- HBI – China's Glycerine Market Trends & Directions
- Leaf Resources – Development of Biochemical Production Via Glycerol/Biomass
- Inventa Technologies – Integrated R&D in Oleochemicals – From Bench to Industrial Scale
- HanCole – Philippines Coco-Oleo Industry Prospects
- Buss ChemTech – Choosing a Technology Provider For a Successful Oleochemical Plant
- Asia surfactants market trends and more!

Testimonials from 4th Oleochemicals Outlook, 23-24 Aug 2016, Bali

"Good networking opportunity between buyers, sellers and industry leaders"
– Louis Dreyfus

"Well presented, Open-minded & Fascinating!" – PT Bank Mandiri

"Good event for up to date commercial & technical updates with opportunity to network" – AOMG

"Excellent speakers sharing beneficial knowledge" – MPOB

"Get a prospect to apply our technology!" – Veolia

"This is a good conference gives idea on what's happening in market & of course networking opportunity!"
– Galaxy Surfactants

"Good networking" – Stepan

Whom you will network with

This conference invites suppliers and producers from across the oleochemical value chain, from feedstock to product application, in order to provide a diverse and interactive level of discussion on the future of oleochemicals. CEOs, VPs, General Managers, Business Development Directors/Managers, Product Managers, Global Purchasing Directors/Managers, Supply Chain Directors, Logistics Managers, Sourcing Directors/Managers, Marketing Managers, Sales Managers, Brokers, Consultants and R&D Managers

5th Oleochemicals Outlook

23-24 August 2017 / Yogyakarta, Indonesia

"Explore Ways to Extract Higher Margins for Oleo Value Chain"

- Palm oil industry outlook & forecast
- Alternative feedstocks & economics
- Oleo market outlook in **USA, Europe & Asia**
- Fast emerging African market - how big will it be?
- Innovations in downstream sectors & emerging applications/trends
- Biodiesel & Glycerin demand trends
- Get latest insights from end-users!

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- Emery Oleochemicals
- Inventa Technologies
- Johnson & Johnson
- KPMG Services
- LMC International
- PT Bank CIMB Niaga
- Indonesian Association of Biofuel Producers (APROBI)

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SUSTAINABILITY IN THE SPOTLIGHT AT CMT'S OIL PALM SUMMIT IN KL, THIS AUGUST

CMT's 9th ASIA Sustainable Oil Palm Summit in Kuala Lumpur on 31 July-02 August, revives vital discussions on the ongoing global debate on palm oil industry's sustainability drive – right from traceability, smart agri techniques to value additions from palm oil wastes for a circular economy.

The summit kick starts with a joint opening session on 'Driving Sustainability – Updates from Palm Oil Producers' by Anita Neville, Vice President – Corporate Communications and Sustainability Relations, Golden Agri ("GAR") and Ranveer Singh Chauhan, Managing Director & CEO, Palm & Natural Rubber, Olam. They reaffirm the importance of strengthening traceability through collaborative partnerships with smallholders and buyers as well as commitments to zero deforestation/ no Deforestation, No Peat, No Exploitation (NDPE) policies.

Felda joins the summit with a session on 'Best Replanting Model for Early Oil Palm Yielding' and as host of a Pre-Conference Site Visit to Felda Plant House Nursery and Seeds Production & Breeding Unit plus a tour of FELDA'S GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) on 31 July.

Expanding further on Sustainability theme are sessions on smart agriculture –

- Performing Cloud Based Machine Learning Algorithms on Drone Imagery for Efficient Management & Plant Health Estimation - Poladrone Solutions
- Latest Developments on Agriculture Drone for Oil Palm Plantations Application - Surmap
- Application of IoT (Internet of Things) in the Palm Oil Sector - Cambridge Consultants

Other highlights are 2 dedicated sessions on added value for palm oil waste – with Eureka Synergy sharing on 'Supreme Grade Organic Fertilizer from Palm Oil Industrial Waste'

while INTROP Universiti Putra Malaysia and Eco Premium Packaging presenting on 'Conversion of Oil Palm biomass wastes in the form of empty fruit bunches (EFB) to premium packaging products'.

Organized by Centre for Management Technology (CMT), the program also includes discussions on:

- Tightening Up RSPO's Accountability Mechanism & Moving Forward on Sustainability - Round Table on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)
- Taking Our Plantation Business to the Next Level - MKH Resources
- Palm Oil Price Outlook and Prevailing Trends - RHB Research Institute
- A Leading Buyer's Approach on Sustainable Sourcing of Palm Oil & Challenges Faced - Kao Corporation
- Role of Molecular Precision Agriculture in Oil Palm Sustainability and its Economic Impact in Southeast Asia – Orion Genomics
- Increasing Dominance of No Deforestation, No Peat, No Exploitation Policies in the Oil Palm Industry and the Way Forward - Aidenvironment
- Recent Developments on 3-McPD and Glycidyl Esters in palm oil and other vegetable oils – Unilever Research & Development Vlaardingen
- To Peat or not to Peat – Param Agricultural Soil Surveys and Peatland Restoration Agency
- Responsible Management of Peatland with Real Time Technology Water Level Monitoring Systems – National Research Council of Indonesia

Also participating at the summit as Coffee Break Sponsor, Trimble Navigation's APAC Director of Sales & Distribution – Mr. John Whitehead presents 'The Role of Geospatial Technology in Sustainable Palm Oil Production: Lessons Learned and Opportunities Ahead'.



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- Palm Oil price outlook and prevailing trends
- Leading buyer's approach on sustainable sourcing of palm oil & challenges faced
- Recent developments on 3-McPD and glycidyl esters in palm oil and fats
- From palm oil waste and empty fruit branches to premium packaging products
- Latest in drone technology and smart agriculture for sustainable solutions
- Responsible management of peatland with real time technology water monitoring systems
- Best Replanting Model for Early Oil Palm Yielding

Confirmed Speakers:

- Golden Agri International
- Olam International Limited
- Round Table on Sustainable Palm Oil
- MKH Resources
- RHB Research Institute
- Kao Corporation
- Orion Biosains
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EXPANDING BIOGAS'S RENEWABLE FOOTPRINT IN AFRICA

Back for the 2nd Year, the BIOGAS AFRICA FORUM 2017 is held in partnership with GIZ and seeks to promote the development of the biogas sector in Africa as a solution to their clean energy, clean cooking and waste management needs.

Biogas, and its associated treatment technologies and processes, is truly one of the most versatile and useful renewable energy developments with today's technology and could provide a revolution to the energy and water needs of Africa.

The forum will bring together the players from across the biogas value chain in Africa. From policy makers and government officials learning about sane policies and rules that will govern the industry, to owners of plantations, mills and factories learning about how much investing into biogas projects is going to make them, this conference is for everyone looking to entering and thriving in this industry.

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» YB Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong was receiving souvenir from Dato' Leong Kin Mun

BIOMASS INDUSTRY NETWORKING SEMINAR 2017

The Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, YB Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong delivered opening keynote address at the Malaysia Biomass Industry Networking Seminar 2017 which held on 24th May 2017 at Kinrara Resort, Puchong, Selangor. This Networking Seminar gathered the industry players and relevant stakeholders within the biomass value chain to update on the latest happening in the biomass industry

The biomass industry in Malaysia has evolved into a source that can be utilized ranging from the generation of renewable energy to the production of the bio fertilisers, bio-chemicals, bio-pellets and eco-products. There is a big potential of biomass industry to become a game changer for the country, both in terms of economic growth as well as enhancing the sustainability of our resources.

The oil palm industry has been major source of biomass in Malaysia. In 2016, the oil palm industry contributed 3.5% to the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP), with export earnings of RM67.6 billion and accounted for 8.6% of total merchandise

exports in 2016.

In terms of biomass, the oil palm industry generated about 82 million tonnes dry weight of oil palm biomass from the plantation as well as from the milling sector. In addition to that, from the total of 85.54 million tonnes of fresh fruit bunches processed at the mills in 2016, about 57.31 million tonnes of palm oil mill effluent (POME) were generated. The biogas from POME offers the potential to generate power for own use in the mills and also for grid connectivity.

To enhance the sustainability of the oil palm industry, the Government, is encouraging biogas capture from POME, through the Palm Oil National Key Economic Area (NKEA) initiative. Currently there are 93 biogas plants in operation in the country, 8 under construction and 145 under planning. Out of 93 plants, 23 are connected to the grid under the Feed-in Tariff initiative. The biogas is captured for electricity generation for on- and off- grid use or co-fired with biomass boilers in palm oil mills to power up the mill operation.

The biomass initiative is significant to address the issue of



» Participants of the networking seminar.



1



2



3

unsustainability production of palm oil. Hence Malaysia need to further develop the biomass industry and generate more economic wealth from existing acreage of oil palm land and abundant sources of biomass while reducing the impacts of the industry on the environment.

The Government will continuously support and facilitate the development of the biomass processing industry, including where necessary fiscal incentives to further promote this industry under the flagship of the National Biomass Strategy 2020 (NBS2020). Under NBS2020, the biomass industry is targeted to continue RM30 billion in additional Gross National Income (GNI), creating 66,000 jobs as well as expected to contribute to a saving of 12% in carbon emissions by 2020.

It is hoped that the biomass industry will flourish in the future through the collaboration between the government agencies and the industry to ensure a successful commercialization of oil palm biomass as well as other agriculture biomass. Besides intensifying the research and development (R&D) and exploring new potential global markets, efforts must also be made to identify and minimise the gaps in the industry value chain, encourage more collaboration between local and international agencies by smart partnering and leverage continuous engagement with relevant government agencies.

1 During the press conference, from the left: H.E. Maria Castillo Fernandez, ambassador & head of the Delegation of the European Union to Malaysia; Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong, the Minister of Plantation Industries and commodities (MPIC) Malaysia; and Y. Bhg. Dato' Leong Kin Mun, President of Malaysia Biomass Industries Confederation (MBIC).

2 H.E. Maria Castillo Fernandez, ambassador & head of the Delegation of the European Union to Malaysia, was receiving souvenir from Dato' Leong Kin Mun.

3 Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong, the Minister of Plantation Industries and commodities (MPIC) Malaysia was delivering opening keynote address.

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