

ASIA PALM OIL

PALM OIL INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

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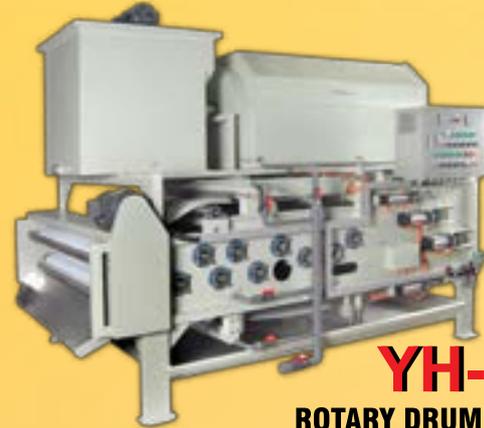
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DESLUDGING & DEWATERING SYSTEM



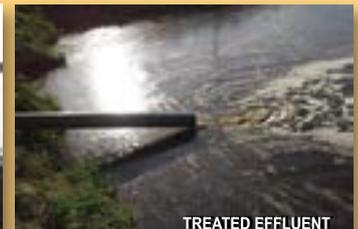
KSP 413
SCREW PRESS DESLUDGING AND DEWATERING MACHINE

Dimension (mm)	5100(L) x 2525(W) x 2560(H)
Power Consumption (hp)	8
DS Standard Treatment Capacity	390~480kg/h
Influent Treatment Capacity	15-30m ³ /hr
Nett Weight	5500kg



YH-1500L
ROTARY DRUM DEHYDRATION BELT FILTER PRESS

Belt Width (mm)	1500
Inlet Capacity (m ³ /hr) (S.S. 1.5 - 2.5%)	12 - 20.5
Sludge Contributed (kg/hr)	180 - 308
Moisture Content (%)	63 - 84.5
Power Consumption (hp)	5



Functions :-

1. For desludging/desilting purpose in wastewater treatment system.
2. Consists of rotary drum for dewatering (80% of the water influent removed in this section).
3. Double layer PP belt continuous dewatering by pressing.
4. Produce the cake solid with moisture content 70-80% suitable for composting and land application.
5. Improve the retention time of pond in wastewater ponding system, longer biological treatment.
6. Reduce BOD and COD of the wastewater from time to time.

Functions :-

1. For desludging purpose in wastewater treatment system.
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KH-777-12
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After Pressing



Capacity:12-15MT of EFB/hour

KH-777-15
Heavy Duty EFB Long Fibre Press

After Pressing



Capacity:4-5 MT of EFB/hour

KH-777-SP3
Heavy Duty EFB Super Press

After Pressing



Capacity:7-8MT of EFB/hour

KH-77
Heavy Duty Empty Fruit Bunch Shredder

After Shredding



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in palm oil industry

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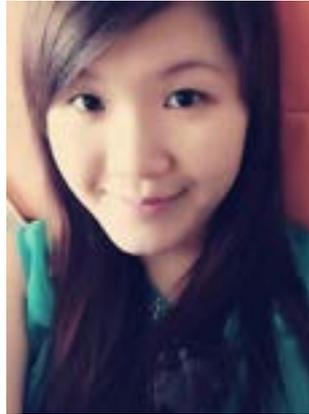
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EDITOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Readers,

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Asia Palm Oil Magazine is the voice of the association and industry player from the palm oil industry, shedding light on industry developments and providing a wide range of new perspectives on industry news in Asia.

It is with sincere appreciation that I thank and commend Professor Emeritus Dato' Dr. Makhdzir Mardan, Chief Executive of MPOA and Mr Victor Pang, Head of Business of Sefar Singapore Pte Ltd for the interview session. Their sharing of experience and knowledge on the palm oil industry in the coming few years make this edition of Asia Palm Oil Magazine even more irresistible and become a must-have on the palm oil industry players' book rack.

Our goal is to create a platform for exchange of information on all aspects of palm oil industry. Future scope of Asia Palm Oil Magazine is open to your suggestions. I would like to encourage you to submit original research notes as well as opinions, technical reports or articles in the palm oil industry. We are going to keep you informed on upcoming events that we are going to attend, give you inside stories on the development strategies and directions of palm oil industry. The success of this magazine depends on your response. I would appreciate your feedback.

Thank you.

Charlyne Lee
Editor

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SIME DARBY OFFSHORE ENGINEERING SDN BHD SIGNS JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENT WITH GAS MALAYSIA BERHAD

JV company will pursue business opportunities in the Bio-Compressed

Natural Gas value chain

Kuala Lumpur, 28th April 2015 – Sime Darby Offshore Engineering Sdn Bhd (“SDOE”) and Gas Malaysia Berhad (“Gas Malaysia”) have teamed up to pursue business opportunities in the Bio-Compressed Natural Gas (“Bio-CNG”) value chain with the setting up of a joint venture company known as Sime Darby Gas Malaysia Bio-CNG Sdn Bhd (“JVCo”).

SDOE will hold a 51% stake in the JVCo while the balance of 49% will be held by Gas Malaysia.

SDOE, through its Technical Services Division is principally involved in supplying, installing, commissioning and providing support services for the Bio-CNG business, namely Bio-CNG systems, distribution trailers, tanks and after-sales services. It is a wholly-owned indirect subsidiary of Sime Darby Berhad.

Incorporated in Malaysia since 1992, Gas Malaysia is a leading company involved in the distribution of natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas to industrial, commercial and residential customers in Peninsular Malaysia via its existing core business whilst venturing into new areas of business, namely the Combined Heat and Power, and Virtual Pipeline, to catapult future growth.

Bio-CNG is a sustainable and eco-friendly alternative energy source to fossil fuels. It is generated from residues and waste materials which reduce greenhouse emissions which



» (Encik Mohd Zaifullizan Abdul Aziz, Managing Director of Sime Darby Offshore Engineering Sdn Bhd, together with Encik Ahmad Hashimi Abdul Manap, Chief Executive Officer of Gas Malaysia Berhad with the signed JV Agreement)

would otherwise be released if not captured and treated.

As a carbon neutral fuel alternative, Bio-CNG can be effectively stored and transported in CNG cylinders, providing customers with a more cost-efficient means of gas distribution and in the long-term advance the nation’s bio-economy footprint by reducing imports of coal and gas.

“This partnership is a much anticipated development as it is in line of Sime Darby’s strategic growth initiatives, which is to position SDOE as an integrated engineering service player in the Bio-CNG business,” said Encik Alam Hamzah Sendut, Executive Vice President of Sime Darby’s Energy & Utilities (Non-China Operations) division.

“With the respective area of expertise and competencies being brought to the table through this Joint Venture, we foresee vast economic

potential and development of niche technical skill sets from the synergies between SDOE and Gas Malaysia.”

SDOE first ventured into the Bio-CNG business in 2010. Since then, the company has installed and successfully commissioned its first full scale Bio-CNG plant to Felda Global Ventures Holdings Berhad (FGV) in February 2015. The project features the first plant in Malaysia to produce Bio-CNG, with a production capacity of 80,000 MMBtu per annum.

Commenting on the JV Agreement, Chief Executive Officer of Gas Malaysia Berhad, Encik Ahmad Hashimi bin Abdul Manap said, “With over 20 years of experience in selling, marketing and distributing natural gas to industrial, commercial and residential sectors in Peninsular Malaysia, we remain confident on our potential network and infrastructure to facilitate the proposed business activities for this joint venture.”

“With this strategic alliance and the combined strength of each partner in their respective fields, we remain optimistic that this joint venture will deliver sustainable growth in the near future,” he concluded.

The signing of the JV agreement marks the first step towards greater synergies of expertise between Sime Darby and Gas Malaysia to capture opportunities within the Bio-CNG business.

Source: Sime Darby & Gas Malaysia



The New Advanced Planting Material

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nearly 10mt/ha/yr

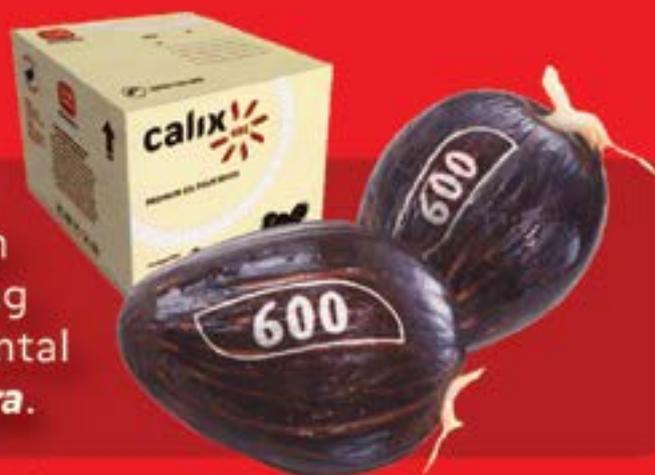
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'WHO AM I' CORNER



Mr. Gary Ng Ah Teng is the founder of Jasa Aman Engineering Sdn Bhd (JAE) and have more than 40 years of experience in steam turbine solutions for the palm oil, sugar and rice industry. He started the company representing various American brand steam turbines and selling them as mechanical driver steam turbines for boiler feed pump application and eventually for electrical power generation. In 1996, he started manufacturing the boiler feed pump turbines with Prime USA in Malaysia and then continued on similarly with the power generation turbines in 2009. JAE is also expanding its reach into the biogas power market with products such as biogas engines and biogas turbines. JAE's business territory coverage in the palm oil industry includes Malaysia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Philippines, South America and Africa. The company will continue to develop through organic and non-traditional growth approaches consistent with management's long range plan. JAE hopes to be the one stop power solution of choice for the palm oil industry.

THAI ENERGY GIANT PTT TO DIVEST FROM INDONESIAN PALM OIL BIZ



PTT PCL, one of Thailand's leading energy conglomerate will be selling its entire investment in PT Mitra Aneka Rezeki (PT MAR) in Indonesia to PT Prasada Jaya Mulia (PJM) and Harvey Bay Overseas Ltd (HBO) for \$35 million, as a part of its plan to divest non-core operations. This was decided by the company's board of directors in a recent meeting.

PTT holds 95 per cent of total issued shares in PT MAR through its subsidiaries Kalimantan Thailand Palm Pte Ltd (KTP) and PTT Green Energy Services (Netherlands) BV (PGE).

According to the company's filings with the Stock Exchange of Thailand, the share sale, assignment of loan, and advance subscription payment were completed yesterday (June 9). PTT has completed the disposition of the entire investment of shares in PT.MAR.

PTT's subsidiaries would be

responsible for relevant taxes and fees in this transaction.

PTT's president and CEO Pailin Chuchottaworn said that the transaction value price has been agreed upon between the purchasers and the sellers via independent negotiation and PTT will receive appropriate returns from this investment disposition.

PTT acquired stakes in PT MAR for \$14.7 million in February 2008 in a bid to expand into environmentally friendly energy sources.

PT MAR operates palm plantation and crude palm oil refineries in Indonesia. The two two projects include, Pontianak project at West Kalimantan and Banyuasin project at South Sumatra.

Recently, PTT has sold 27.22 per cent stake in oil refinery Bangchak Petroleum PCL and its 36 per cent share in Star Petroleum Refining.

Source: DealStreetAsia

RAPID GROWTH SEEN FOR BIOMASS SECTOR



The Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA), a unit under Ministry of International Trade and Industry, projects rapid growth and good prospects for the country's biomass industry next year.

Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed said the biomass was an important sector and Malaysia needed to harness its potentials.

"We (Malaysia) are looking for some new growth strategies, as currently we have information technology, biotechnology and electrical and electronics sectors which have done well," he told reporters at the Biomass Conference 2015, here Wednesday.

He said Malaysia's biomass ecosystem now was quite simple where biomass items were converted to oil palm pellets which were sold to

South Korea and China.

Mustapa said the biggest opportunities were in Sarawak, Johor and Pahang which had big palm plantations, which could be relied on for good and regular supply of raw materials.

He said the country needed to move up and produce bio-ethanol, citing Brazil as an example where the country was converting sugarcane waste to ethanol for fuel.

"The costs of raw materials are quite competitive in Malaysia and we (MIDA) believe there is going to be huge potentials," he said.

Investments in biomass industry in Malaysia continue to be encouraging and as of 2014, MIDA approved a total of 12 biomass projects with investments of RM82.9 million compared with 11

projects with investments of RM54.6 million in 2013.

Domestic investments amounted to RM71.1 million while foreign investments totaled RM11.8 million.

Approved biomass projects were for utilisation of empty fruit bunches and palm oil mill effluents to produce organic fertiliser, oil palm pellet, peeled palm lumber and fibre.

Significant opportunities now exist in downstream activities, which generate higher value-added products in the palm biomass sub-sector.

Other promoted growth areas in the palm oil sector are in oleochemical-based products and nutritional foods and ingredients, as well as research and developments activities which involve high levels of technology.

Source: Bernama

MALAYSIA'S FGV TO BUY INTO INDONESIA'S **EAGLE HIGH PLANTATIONS**



Felda Global Ventures Holdings Bhd (FGV) is set to acquire a stake in an Indonesian oil palm company, expanding the group's plantation assets in the republic, even as it seeks to exit refining business in North America.

Sources told StarBiz that FGV was proposing to purchase a substantial stake in Jakarta Stock Exchange-listed Eagle High Plantations Tbk at 800 rupiah a share.

The transaction values the Indonesian planter nearly twice as much as its current market capitalisation of 13.9 trillion rupiah (US\$1.04bil or RM3.89bil).

"The deal is likely to be sealed in Jakarta anytime soon," a source said.

FGV has suspended its trading of its shares today pending a material announcement. Its shares were last traded six sen lower at RM1.86.

Shares in Eagle High, which is 65.5%-owned by billionaire Peter Sondakh's Rajawali Group, rose to 440 rupiah yesterday – its highest level since November last year.

On Wednesday, Rajawali Group managing director Darjoto told Bloomberg that the company was selling an 18.5% stake in Eagle High to an unnamed buyer.

Sondakh acquired the controlling stake in Eagle High in December last year, reports said. The planter has 419,000ha of plantations with an average palm tree profile of 6.72 years across Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Papua and Sumatra provinces.

In February this year, BW Plantations Tbk underwent a name change to PT Eagle High Plantations Tbk to reflect the new controlling shareholder, Rajawali Group.

The Rajawali Group is involved

in mining, plantations, hotels and transportation.

In Malaysia, the Rajawali Group, with its joint-venture partner the Finance Ministry, is developing the RM300mil St Regis Langkawi hotel and the RM115mil Langkawi International Convention Centre. The 5-star hotel is slated for opening in November this year.

Meanwhile, Bloomberg reported that FGV was seeking a buyer for peripheral assets in North America, people with knowledge of the matter said.

The company has invited offers for its crushing and refining businesses in the US and Canada, the people said. Suitors have submitted first-round bids for the operations, which could fetch about US\$150mil (RM560.67mil), they said, asking not to be identified as the information was private.

FGV said earlier this year it would sell some assets as it sought to increase its core palm oil plantation business, expand trading operations and develop new markets.

Shares in the company, whose 2012 initial public offering (IPO) raised US\$3.3bil, have dropped 12% this year compared to the 1.5% decline in the benchmark FTSE Bursa Malaysia KL Composite Index.

The company's Canadian arm, which does soybean and canola crushing, recorded a pre-tax loss of RM81.8mil (US\$21.9mil) last year, according to its 2014 Annual Report.

Its US oleochemical business recorded a profit of RM36.5mil for the period.

FGV has operations in more than 10 countries across Asia, North America and Europe including upstream and downstream palm oil, rubber, sugar and logistics.

Last month, it announced a 98%

drop in first-quarter net income due to lower palm oil prices.

The company said in an e-mailed statement it didn't comment on planned acquisitions or divestitures.

Over the past three years, FGV has been on an aggressive brownfield plantations acquisition trail.

The major acquisitions are mostly financed from its IPO proceeds of RM4.5bil.

They include the RM1.2bil takeover of Sabah-based plantation company Pontian United Plantations Bhd, the RM2.2bil purchase of the remaining 51% stake in its associate company Felda Holdings Bhd, RM44.2mil to buy a 95% stake in two plantation companies with 21,037ha of oil palm estates in West Kalimantan and £120mil Asian Plantations Ltd with plantation assets in Sarawak.

Its latest proposal is to acquire four plantation-based firms and 836.1ha oil palm land in Sabah from Golden Land

Bhd for RM655mil cash.

FGV group chief financial officer Ahmad Tifli Mohd Talha recently said that FGV was set on improving its crop-age from an average of 15.6 years currently to 11.8 years in 2020.

"Not only will this significantly reduce our production costs and offer better margins, it will enable us to remain the largest crude palm oil producer in the world".

As of March 31, FGV had a cash hoard of RM2.9bil in its balance sheet.

"At a gearing ratio of 0.7 times, we still have the capacity to borrow (if need be). Going for sukuk will offer lower financing costs for us compared with commercial loans," added Tifli.

He also maintained that mergers and acquisitions would remain part of the group's expansion plan, going forward.

Source: *The Star Online*



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REGULATORY DELAY ROADBLOCKING GOVT'S BIODIESEL PUSH



The government's plan to blend more biodiesel into diesel fuel may fall short of target as regulatory delays have disrupted implementation.

Fuel distributors have been required to increase their biodiesel mix to 15 percent of their overall diesel fuel starting April this year, from 10 percent last year, to reduce oil imports.

But compliance has been low because biofuel supply is being disrupted by supporting regulations that are still on the way. State-owned Pertamina, which dominated the market share, has run out of stock for fatty acid methyl ester (FAME), which is the main raw material needed to produce biofuel.

"We had to wait for the government regulation and the presidential regulation before we could [issue] the regulation on the new biofuel index price," said Rida Mulyana, director general for new, renewable energy and energy conservation at the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry.

He was referring to government and presidential regulations on the

collection of plantation funds by imposing a levy for palm oil exporters, which were already issued this week, but a special public service agency (BLU) to collect the levy has not yet been established. Finance Minister Bambang Brodjonegoro said the BLU regulation would be issued before the end of May.

Meanwhile, the new biofuel index price (HIP) is expected to support local biodiesel producers so they will be willing to continue supplying amid a declining oil price that has made the biofuel business less profitable.

The new price formula, which is pending the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry's approval, will be based on the index price of crude palm oil (CPO), instead of oil like in the past, plus US\$125 per ton for the conversion of CPO into biocontent substance and transportation costs, according to Rida.

As for the levy for palm oil exporters, the policy was aimed at securing domestic CPO supply to feed biofuel producers. The levy will also be allocated to subsidize biodiesel and improve the country's oil palm plantations.

Under the plan, exporters of CPO and its products will be imposed levies of \$50 and \$30 per ton, respectively, if the commodity's price stands below \$750 per ton like at present. Otherwise, the government will impose an export tax of between 7.5 and 22.5 percent.

About 2.5 million kiloliters (kl) of FAME, which is made out of palm oil, are expected to be blended into diesel fuel this year — comprising 1.4 million kl to be mixed into subsidized diesel fuel and the remainder for the non-subsidized one, according to Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry spokesperson Dadan Kusdiana.

"Those are assumptions if the mandatory blending of 15 percent biodiesel fuel takes effect in June," Dadan said.

But until the end of March, only 140,000 kl biofuel or FAME had been mixed into diesel fuel, he added, estimating that Pertamina would blend 1.7 million kl this year with the remaining 800,000 kl from other fuel distributors.

The government began implementing the mandatory mix of 10 percent of biodiesel into diesel fuel in 2013 as part of its attempts to cut the country's growing consumption of fossil fuels.

However, infrastructure issues have hampered the government in reaching its target. In 2014, only 1.69 million kl of biodiesel were blended out of a total target of 3.41 million kl. Of the blended figure, 1.17 million kl was mixed with subsidized diesel fuel, also a lower achievement than a target of 1.57 million kl.

Source: Jakarta Post

DOLPHIN TO USE IPO PROCEEDS FOR **FACTORY EXPANSION, WORKING CAPITAL**



Dolphin International Bhd, headed for listing on the Main Market of Bursa Malaysia on June 9, will utilise more than 50 per cent of the RM31.28 million it expects to raise from its Initial Public Offering (IPO), for factory expansion and working capital.

The rest will be for establishing a research and development facility and repay bank borrowings, said Group Managing Director Eric Low Teck Yin.

He said the listing would place the company in a stronger position to tap into Malaysia and Indonesia's huge palm oil milling machinery market. There are over 439 mills in Malaysia and about 608 in Indonesia.

Dolphin International is involved in the design, development, fabrication and sale of palm oil machinery.

"We will concentrate on catering to the demand for process integration and automation solutions that enhance productivity, safety and efficiency, while improving our facilities in Shah Alam and Puchong as well as innovating new solutions for customers in both countries," Low said.

He told reporters this after launching Dolphin International's IPO prospectus here Wednesday.

Low said the company's market share at present in the palm oil milling machinery sector was 3.2 per cent in Malaysia and 0.5 per cent in Indonesia.

The automation solutions for the palm oil milling machinery industry, he added, ensure production processes run in a more consistent manner.

Dolphin is issuing 46 million new ordinary shares of 20 sen each at an issue price of 68 sen per IPO share.

The public issue of 46 million new ordinary shares comprise 15 million IPO shares available for the Malaysian public and 8.25 million for the company's group directors and employees.

It includes 22.75 million IPO shares for private placements, of which 2.5 million shares are for selected investors and 20.25 million for Bumiputera investors, approved by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

Source: Bernama



PALM OIL OUTLOOK LIKELY TO IMPROVE THIS YEAR

Although crude palm oil (CPO) prices have been hit hard this year; falling to a five-year low, its prospects are expected to improve due to a recovering global demand, biodiesel uptake and rising health awareness.

Malaysian Palm Oil Council chief executive officer Tan Sri Datuk Dr Yusof Basiron said it is a natural cycle for palm oil prices to go up and down due to ever changing supply and demand situation.

“I beg to differ with them. Although there are challenges this year, it is not confined only to palm oil. Other oils such as soybean oil and sunflower oil, their prices have also softened due to higher production anticipated this year.

As for Malaysian palm oil, we will see slightly

better output this year and better exports. Indonesia has embarked on their biodiesel B15 program and Malaysia will implement the B7 program nationwide this year, which will see more demand for palm oil.

“We can also expect prices to stabilise at between RM2,300 and RM2,600 a tonne so it is not all that gloomy,” said Yusof.

He added the drop in petroleum prices by 50 per cent has affected the prices of all commodities including palm oil.

He added that the prices of soyabean oil in America have also dropped due to excess production which has also led to the dampening of soyabean prices dragging along that of palm oil.



“But a low CPO price will result in higher demand and it is set to rise again, of which the low soyabean and palm oil prices will also affect production and the tightening of the market will cause prices to rebound once again.”

Yusof said the sector’s performance this year will be better than that of last year as MPOC will be aggressively promoting Malaysian palm oil and its related products.

“We will not only go to existing markets but also to new markets and this is done through our various promotional series such as blending and packaging of palm oil in opaque bottles.”

He said the council is also working hard to help the industry penetrate new potential markets such as China, Russia, Pakistan, Central Asian countries and even the US.

Demand for palm oil is rising everywhere in the world, of which there is a rise in population of some 80 million a year and palm oil plays a big role in supplying food to this rising world population.

Yusof said in the US, Europe and Australia, palm oil has become handy as it is the perfect substitute for the harmful transfat — a health threat to the global population.

He said Malaysia, which is the world’s second largest palm oil producer, is also ramping up cooperation with Indonesia at all fronts to enhance and bolster the industry such as development of the new market access for this commodity around the world. Malaysia

and Indonesia have had a close cooperation on commodities and regularly holding bilateral meetings on palm oil, cocoa, pepper and jathropa on a yearly basis to strengthen the competitiveness of these industries.

“The current issues facing both countries that need to be addressed immediately are low prices of CPO and declining export figures — a rare situation we are experiencing now considering the fact that prices are always correlated to uptake as low prices usually stimulate a higher uptake.

One factor that can explain this situation is a bumper harvest of soyabean, leading to a higher production of its oil, thus bringing prices of both commodities down.

Nevertheless, we will be meeting our Indonesian counterparts this year and find measures how both countries can work together to strengthen the CPO prices and uptake. We have a few proposals in mind and will discuss these with our Indonesian counterparts.”

Yusof said one is to reaffirm biodiesel mandate so that the CPO stock can be reduced, thus stabilising prices.

“The two producers are beefing up bilateral cooperation discussing problems faced by two countries from time to time and through the respective ministries, we meet whenever possible to tighten our cooperation and maximise production for the benefit of all.”

Source: New Straits Times



SARAWAK NEEDS AT LEAST **SIX PALM OIL MILLS**

The Plantation Industries and Commodities Ministry will propose to the Sarawak government to allow at least six palm oil mills to be built to cater to the needs of the industry in the state.

Its minister, Datuk Douglas Uggah Embas said the matter would be raised during a meeting with Chief Minister Tan Sri Adenan Satem on Monday.

“Based on our study, Sarawak needs at least six palm oil mills without plantations.

“The proposal takes into consideration that oil palm are cultivated largely on native customary rights land by smallholders, and a minimum of 4,000 hectares (10,000 acres) of oil palm is needed to supply a single palm oil mill,” he said.

Uggah said the ministry had identified suitable sites for the mills.

“Where are the sites? Let me inform the CM

(chief minister) first,” he told reporters before opening of the Sarawak Oil Palm Smallholders Transformation and Development Programme here today.

He said the need for the new mills was also raised by the smallholders during the programme as they were forced to sell their harvest of fresh fruit bunches to collection points.

The price difference between a collection centre and factory is nearly RM100, he added.

Uggah also urged the smallholders to set up a cooperative to market fresh fruit bunches and fetch a better price for their harvest.

Source: Bernama

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OUTLOOK FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION PERSPECTIVE: CERTIFIED PALM OIL AND SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL CERTIFICATION



Europe is a huge market for palm oil. This includes the supply chains for energy and fuel. The European Union, in which a wide range of the most economically relevant EU-countries participate, is setting up the “European bioeconomy”, which aims at alleviating climate change and strengthening the energy security. Due to increasing demand of transport fuels, biofuels and biofuel investments are part of the strategy.

The EU “Renewable Energy Directive” (RED) mandates that 20% of EU final energy use should come from renewable sources, and includes a sub-target that 10% of the energy used in transport should be from renewable sources. Recent studies even showed that EU legislation underestimated biofuels’ climate benefits – it’s likely 80% better than expected.

It’s not only requirements of the RED – it’s also widely agreed on EU political and business level, that palm oil (as other biogenetic oil) should come from sustainable production. Deforestation, indirect land use change, biodiversity loss and further environmental and social aspects are increasingly part of public awareness, discussion and criticism. Not all discussion is to the point, not all reasoning is based on knowledge, but there is a common call for credible checks of production conditions of the palm oil.

This is where the benefit of sustainability standards comes in: Using a certification system fosters credibility. EU regulation currently accepts 6 certification standards for palm oil (plus 13 accepted certification systems with different scope), as proof of sustainable palm oil production. They

are recognized market tools, which significantly support the acceptance of sustainable palm oil in Europe. Market, regulatory bodies and informed public accept the benefits of sustainability certification standards: if set up well, they are appropriate tools to identify sustainability hot-spots, to manage compliance with market regulations, and to support capacity building.

Sustainability is part of product quality: a Malaysian transparent and credible certification system for sustainable palm oil is a consequent step to further improve market share in the EU, to promote Malaysia’s sustainability activities and to demonstrate the quality of its products. Visit us on the web at www.dqs.com.my or email to mspo@dqs.com.my for further info.

Source: MBIC

1



干燥
Drying

总包工程：做到0.3MW-6MW
生物质锅炉：燃烧原料为，棕榈纤维，棕榈壳，棕榈颗粒，可混烧沼气（天然气）。
Engineering: 0.3MW-6MW
Biomass boiler combustion: raw materials, palm fiber, palm shell, palm particles, can mix burning methane (natural gas).

2



输送
Conveying

3



制粒
Pelletizing

4



生物质粒子
Biomass Pellet

5



燃烧
Burning

Power Plant Boiler

Dryer Type: Fluidized Bed
Dryer Medium: EFB
Dryer Capacity: 1 - 10 t/h
Fiber Moisture: 45 - 25%
Flue Gas Temperature: 200 - 250 C



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NO 1188, Taihu West Avenue, Wuxi, Jiangsu, China
Website: <http://www.wxboiler.net/>

FGV TO SUPPLY PREMIER OIL PALM SEEDS TO PLANTERS IN MINDANAO



Felda Global Ventures Holdings Bhd (FGV) subsidiary Felda Agriculture Services Sdn Bhd (FASSB) has ventured into the Philippine market to supply its premier oil palm seeds to planters in Mindanao.

FASSB signed a Memorandum of Collaboration with the Philippines' Bali Oil Palm Produce Corporation (BOPPC) recently to explore the possibility of collaborating in agriculture-related products and services, said FGV in a statement here.

Under the collaboration, which will be a springboard for Mindanao to become one of the major world-class palm oil exporters together with FGV and other top world producers, FASSB is committed to delivering the first oil palm seeds to the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) and BOPPC this year.

It also to deliver 110,000 and one million

DxP oil palm germinated seeds to PCA and BOPPC respectively, commencing June this year.

"We are indeed very glad to be associated with BOPPC in providing us the opportunity to be involved in the Philippine market through the introduction of our premier oil palm seeds, fertilisers and other related agricultural products," said FGV Senior Vice-President and Head of R&D and Agri Services, S. Palaniappan.

FGV produces over 25 million seeds annually and its export markets include Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Honduras, Cambodia, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Gabon.

The development of FASSB's oil palm planting material is backed by a comprehensive R&D programme started 47 years ago.

Source: Bernama

ETHIOPIA: **REPI WILMAR** ALLEGES SEVEN BILLION BIRR INVESTMENT ON 14 FACTORIES

Establishing a Grade-1 construction firm or negotiating a deal with a Chinese construction firm - both in four weeks - are the options for the businessman who had Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn laying a foundation stone last week for what is claimed to be a seven billion Birr investment on 14 new factories.

Construction will begin on June 15, 2015, said Kamil Sabir, the managing director of the Repi Wilmar Manufacturing Complex on May 10, 2015, when the Prime Minister graced the huge tract of land, 100ha, which the company leased in Sebeta, 25kms south of Addis in the Oromia regional state. But as of now the company is yet to decide who will undertake the construction work.

Repi Wilmar is a company established by Repi Soap & Detergent Factory and Wilmar International Ltd, a Singapore company, with 50pc share each.

Repi, a company in the Alsam Group, is one of the major importers of edible oil in the country. It formed

Repi Wilmar in August 2014 after eight of its executives visited the different factories of Wilmar.

The first phase of the construction, which will be conducted with an investment of 3.5 billion Birr, will build 10 of the total 14 factories.

The factories to be constructed in the first phase include a palm oil refinery, soap detergent factory, and a sodium silicate melting and packaging plant. These are planned to be completed within 18 months, according to Kamil.

The second phase of the factories will see the construction of a wheat milling factory, fertiliser factory, pasta factory and a soybean oil refinery.

"The products to be produced by the complex are intended to supply the Ethiopian consumer market as well as for export to surrounding countries," said Kamil.

The planned export destinations are Sudan, Somalia, Yemen and Kenya, with the anticipated operation of Ethiopia's railway projects to facilitate transportation.

The transformation of traders to manufacturers in their particular fields, is one of the major considerations of the coming Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II), said Hailemariam who was with Muktar Kedir, president of Oromia as well as other officials.

The first of the 14 factories, which will be the palm oil refinery, will come in two year's time and will have the capacity of producing 420,000tn a year, which is intended to cover 80pc of the total market share. This factory will use crude oil imported from Singapore and Malaysia, which will be transported on Wilmar's ships.

Wilmar, which currently processes and merchandises palm oil, is the owner of oil palm plantations in Asia, an oilseed crusher in China and manufacturer of the oil brand named Viking for the Ethiopian market.

"We are not strangers to the Ethiopian market," said Kuok Koon Hong, chairman of Wilmar International. "We intend to duplicate many of our manufacturing plants in Ethiopia."

For the simplification of transporting crude oil, Repi Wilmar will also construct a depot in Djibouti on a 60,000sqm plot of land.

According to Kamil, soil testing will begin this week, for the coming construction. Kamil did not say, however, how Repi Wilmar could establish a Grade-1 construction company and be ready to begin construction in four weeks.

However, he said that if the construction company is not established, then they will talk with CREC, the Chinese company undertaking the construction of the light rail transit in Addis Abeba.

Source: AllAfrica.com



INDUSTRIALISATION: IT'S A NEW DAWN IN NIGERIA



Olusegun Aganga, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, has passion for issues that would actualise the current administration's transformation agenda. To him, the industrial sector has been experiencing tremendous growth, putting the nation's economic diversification on the right course. He spoke with Business Editor, ADE OGIDAN.

It's almost four years now since the then Ministry of Commerce and Industry became Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment. What would you point to as a major impact of this change?

President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan created the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment (MITI) with a vision to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth, create jobs and generate wealth.

At the beginning of this administration, therefore, the Ministry set out to achieve this vision through the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes that would attract investments into all sectors of the Nigerian economy, boost industrialisation, increase trade and develop local enterprises.

With the re-orientation of the staff of the Ministry towards diligent delivery of duties and implementation of policies,



» Olusegun Aganga, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment

MITI, along with the 17 parastatals under its supervision, has been able to deliver remarkable results, in line with its mandate, within the lifetime of this administration. Our mandate cuts across Industry, Trade, Investment and Enterprise and in all four, there have been remarkable changes.

Let's talk about industry. What have we done differently as a country?

Here, I would want to start by telling Nigerians what we met.

Prior to 2011, there had been little or no focus on adding value to our commodities. There were no clear plans by any Ministry to lead economic and revenue diversification efforts to ensure inclusive and sustainable economic growth. In specific terms, there was no industrial plan for Nigeria, no economic and revenue diversification strategy; there was low manufacturing contribution to GDP, low level of value chain development in different sectors, weak industrial infrastructure and complete dependence on importation and exportation of only raw materials.

To move the country forward within the shortest possible period, therefore, the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, in line with the Transformation Agenda of the President, developed, for the first time in Nigeria's history, a comprehensive, integrated and strategic roadmap to Nigeria's industrialisation – the Nigeria Industrial Revolution Plan. The plan focuses on the sectors where Nigeria has comparative and competitive advantage and has been endorsed by private and public sector stakeholders as a game changer in the advancement of industrialisation in Nigeria. In fact, in 2013, the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) endorsed the NIRP and, for the first time, adopted Nigeria as one of the two countries in Africa it would work with for the realisation of Africa's industrialisation goals.

Unlike other development plans, the NIRP focuses on the supporting structures and enablers, which are vital for Nigeria's industrialization. They are: infrastructure, skills development, finance, investment climate, innovation and technology, standards and local patronage.

“

The NIRP focuses on the supporting structures and enablers, which are vital for Nigeria's industrialization. They are: infrastructure, skills development, finance, investment climate, innovation and technology, standards and local patronage.

Which other policies, within the framework of the NIRP are being developed to drive industrial growth?

First let me make it clear that sectorial policies have already been developed and launched for Cement, Auto-Assembly, Sugar and Cotton, Textiles and Garments. Policies for basic metals, cocoa, rubber and palm oil will be launched soon.

In the automotive sector for instance, prior to 2012, Nigeria was one of only two nations in the world's top 10 economies, which did not have an automotive manufacturing and assembly sector; and we spent \$6 billion annually importing cars. The Ministry therefore began a robust analysis of automotive sectors globally and began working with international investors and local stakeholders to develop a holistic and robust automotive policy for Nigeria. Following this, the Nigeria Automotive Industry Development Plan was approved by Mr. President in October 2013. Ten days after, Nissan made a public statement endorsing the policy and committing to investing in an auto-assembly/manufacturing plant in Nigeria to supply its Nigerian and West-African market. On May 29 2014, Nissan launched its first SUVs and cars, assembled in Nigeria.

Apart from Nissan, which other manufacturers are in the country and what specific benefits has the country gained from the implementation policy?

Since its launch, the number of auto manufacturers in Nigeria has increased from four to 22; 10 car manufacturers have started producing and some have even expanded existing low-level production. Nissan, Ashok Leyland, Hyundai, Foton etc have started producing; while Peugeot and Innoson, among others are expanding. Three companies are currently constructing their assembly/manufacturing sites (Kia, Renault and Joylong) while nine companies are in their final stages of pre-investment due diligence (Toyota, Honda, Isuzu, Tata, Skoda, MAN, Mitsubishi, Ford and VW).

Innoson has produced affordable cars with 45 per cent local content, for instance and investments in the sector have risen from \$62 million over ten years (between 2001 and 2011) to \$150 million in 2014 alone, with a pipeline investment of \$300 million expected by 2016.

Let me also add that between 2001 and 2010, the automobile industry manufacturing capacity utilisation was 10 per cent per cent. This has risen astronomically to 50.3 per cent as at the first half of 2014.

A lot has been said about the National Sugar Master Plan. How would you assess the plan? After over a year of implementation, would you say it was worth putting together after all?

You will not believe that in less than two years of implementation, a lot is happening in that sector. The implementation is also throwing up a lot of investment and employment opportunities. Prior to 2012, there was no policy or strategy for the development of the sugar sector; only 3,850 jobs had been created in the entire sugar industry; and total investment in this sector was less than \$100



million. There were also no sugar research and development facilities, while Nigeria imported 97 per cent of the sugar consumed in the country.

The launch of the National Sugar Master Plan in September 2012 has, however, led to the creation of 11,492 jobs currently. This is expected to increase to 180,000 jobs by 2016. As we speak, investment pipeline for the sugar industry has increased to \$3.2 billion; the price of sugar (Naira/50kg) has fallen from N10,370 to N7,003; and sugar plantations and refineries are being developed in every region of the country, especially the more vulnerable regions of the North (Sokoto, Kebbi, Jigawa, Taraba and Adamawa).

Nigerians are still worried about the price of cement even with claims of achievements in the cement sector. How would you describe developments in this sector vis a vis the expectations of Nigerians?



To answer this question, we must look at where we are coming from. In 2011, Nigeria had installed cement production capacity of 16.5 mtpa (million tons per annum); the sector had attracted investments of \$9 billion; while Nigeria imported 5.2 million tons annually. But today, the cement sector has become one of the biggest industries in the Nigerian economy, thanks to the consistent and successful implementation of the backward integration policy.

This administration has ensured capacity growth in the sector and has provided the right environment for more investments into the sector with the result that today, Nigeria is a net exporter of cement. To this effect, the following have

been achieved - increase in installed production capacity by 139 per cent, from 16.5 mtpa to 39.5 mtpa; and increase in investments in the sector by 150 per cent to over \$15 billion in 2014. I am happy to tell you that, today, Nigeria no longer issues import licences.

Also, for the first time in the history of Nigeria, Government has regulated the grades and prescribed uses of cement – this is aimed at reducing the risk of building collapse and accidents in the future. The Ministry has implemented this policy through the Standards Organisation of Nigeria.

What about textiles? This used to be a vibrant industry. But today, many textile factories have close down? What is government doing to reverse the trend?



The reverse is actually the case. The textile industry is breathing very well now. We have developed a cotton, textiles and garment policy for Nigeria, which was approved by the Federal Executive Council in December 2014. The implementation of the policy, which started a long time before the formal launch, will lead to a rise in direct employment from 24,000 to 50,000 by the end of 2015 and 100,000 by 2017. It will also lead to an estimated increase in indirect employment from 650,000 to 1,000,000 by the end of 2015, and 1,300,000 by 2017; attract \$1.5 billion FDI into the sector in the next five years; and increase seed cotton production from 180,000 MT in 2013 to 500,000 in 2017. Of course, Nigeria will also be able to save \$2bn in foreign exchange and increase export earnings to \$3bn or 0.5 per cent of the global share of international trade in textiles and garments in five years.

According to statistics by the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, industrial capacity utilisation has risen from 46.44 per cent in 2010 to about 52 per cent currently. Capacity utilisation in the textile, apparel and footwear sector has also significantly increased from 29.14 per cent to about 52 per cent.

You will recall that in 2010, the Federal Government introduced a N100billion Cotton, Textile and Garment Revival Fund, managed by the Bank of Industry to reverse

the ugly trend of progressive collapse of the textile industry. The BOI in conjunction with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization have appraised the performance of the fund. A substantial portion of it has been successfully disbursed.

We have, however, obtained presidential approval for some aspects in the policy such as the conversion of the loan, given to the BOI by the Federal Government for on-lending to CTG companies, into Federal Government's equity in the bank. This will make it possible for BOI to elongate the period of this fund, which was billed to end in 2017. It further puts BOI in a position to review the interest rate downwards. Already, a number of the beneficiaries of the CTG Fund have had their loan tenor elongated while their interest rates have been reviewed downwards. This will go a long way in alleviating the burden on CTG companies, especially those in the northern part of the country.

Overall, the Bank of Industry has increased the number of loans approved for industries by 232 per cent, from 272 in 2011 to 902 in 2013; the value of loans disbursed also increased significantly from N38 billion to N150 billion - an increase of 295 per cent.

Lets talk about investments. Where exactly are we? It's definitely not all rosy with the attendant challenges.

In terms of Foreign Direct Investment, Nigeria has never had it this good. But the results did not come on a platter of gold. Since the creation of the Ministry and the addition of the Investment mandate, the Ministry has worked aggressively in supporting local investments and attracting foreign investments from global leaders in sectors where Nigeria has competitive and comparative advantage, areas where Nigeria can be number one in Africa and top ten globally. We have told the story of Nigeria the way it should be told across all continents and the result has been stronger confidence. I would tell you that in the last three to four years, the interest and confidence in the Nigerian economy has increased greatly. The Ministry has recorded an unprecedented increase in the number of senior investment and trade delegations from China, France, Germany, UK, USA, Canada, Switzerland, Kenya and Pakistan among others.

According to UNCTAD's Annual World Investment Report, Nigeria ranked No.1 destination for FDI in Africa in 2011, 2012 and top 3 in 2013. It should be noted that this measurement takes into consideration only net FDI and discounts large investments (acquisitions) by local companies from multinationals. If these investments were included, the net-FDI figure would be substantially greater.

In fact, the Wall Street Journal's Frontier market Sentiment index (FMSI), which tracks investment interest from the top 200 USA and EU multinational companies, for the first time ever, ranked Nigeria the number one country of interest globally. I tell you, it is really a new dawn in Nigeria. All we need is sustained implementation of the right policies.

Source: The Guardian Nigeria

PARTICIPATION IN OLEOCHEMICAL PROJECT IN CHINA



Mitsui & Co., Ltd. (“Mitsui,” Head Office: Tokyo, President & CEO Masami Iijima) and Kuala Lumpur Kepong Berhad (“KLK,” Head Office: Ipoh, Malaysia, CEO: Tan Sri Lee Oi Hian), a Malaysian leading company in the palm plantation and oleochemical industries, have reached agreement on Mitsui’s participation in the oleochemical business operated by KLK in China. Mitsui plans to invest a total of \$44 million (approximately ¥5.3 billion) in the business and has signed an agreement providing for the acquisition of 20% of the shares in KLK Premier Capital Limited (“KLKPCL”) from KLK. KLKPCL is an investment holding company, which owns 100% of the shares in Taiko Palm-Oleo (Zhangjiagang) Co., Ltd. (“TPOZ”), a manufacturer and supplier of oleochemicals based in Zhangjiagang City, Jiangsu Province.

Manufactured mainly from palm oil and other natural oils, oleochemicals are used as raw materials for detergents and lubricants. The world market for oleochemicals is currently worth around ¥7 trillion and is expected to grow by over 4% annually (over 7% per annum for China).

KLK is one of the world’s leading companies in this area. In 2004, it established TPOZ for the

manufacture and sales of oleochemicals in China, which is a growth market. When it completes its expansion project, which is currently in progress, TPOZ will improve the cost efficiency of its production operations and target further enhancement of its competitive advantage by introducing new high-added-value derivative products.

Mitsui and KLK have jointly operated an oleochemical manufacturing and supply business in Malaysia since 1991, but this will be their first joint business project in China. This project will not only further strengthen the partnership between the two companies, but will also improve their access to expanding markets. In addition, Mitsui and KLK will be able to broaden their business base through expansion of their oleochemical derivatives business.

Mitsui will work to improve the value of the TPOZ’s oleochemical business operation and deepen its global involvement in this field by deploying its accumulated knowledge and taking the initiative to advance the oleochemical business through its network of companies with sophisticated chemical manufacturing expertise, as well as by utilizing its trading capabilities.

Source: www.mitsui.com

Malaysian oil palm planter Genting Plantations Bhd said it has entered into an agreement with Indonesia's Musim Mas Group to build a RM300 million palm oil refinery on the Borneo island of Sabah.

The refinery, which will have an annual capacity of 600,000 metric tonnes, or 1,800 metric tonnes per day, is due for completion in the second half of 2016, Genting Plantations said in a statement today.

Genting Plantations chief executive Tan Sri Lim Kok Thay said the palm oil refinery will be part of the larger

Genting Integrated Biorefinery Complex that the planter is setting up to boost its downstream business.

Genting will hold 72% of Alfa Raya Development Sdn Bhd, the entity that will build the refinery, while Musim Mas Group will take a 28% interest.

Genting Plantations, in which plantations-to-gaming conglomerate Genting Bhd owns a 54.6% stake, has about 66,000ha of landbank in Malaysia and some 180,000ha in Indonesia.

Source: The Rakyat Post



GENTING BUILDING PALM OIL REFINERY IN SABAH

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INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR EMERITUS DATO' DR. MAKHDZIR MARDAN

Chief Executive of Malaysia Palm Oil Association (MPOA)



1 Share with us a bit about yourself as the Chief Executive of MPOA?

I came from the proletariat and had my early exposure to palm oil as a part time worker, weeding in the palm oil estates in Panchor, Muar, Johor on weekends in my teenage years. I obtained my Diploma in Agriculture at UPM, and later pursued my undergraduate and graduate years in Plant Protection and Entomology at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, USA.

I joined UPM as a lecturer, pursued Ph.D. in apiculture and retired as Professor in Year 2011. For my long and loyal service, I was conferred as Emeritus Professor upon retirement. I joined MPOA in Year 2013. By the way, I own a company operating drone or UAV on remote sensing and GIS for oil palm plantation.

2 Briefly describe on history and profile of MPOA?

In 1999, Malaysian Palm Oil Association (MPOA) was formed by the emergence of a few large plantation sector organizations: the Rubber Growers Association (RGA), the United Planting Association of Malaysia (UPAM) and the Malaysian Oil Palm Growers Council (MOPGC). An immediate benefit of these associations' membership in MPOA is a reduction in membership fees and oil palm growers' one-stop center.

MPOA functions on balancing the needs and interest of the various sectors of synergy and development of the plantation industry as a whole. Besides palm oil crops plantation, it also serves the interest of other plantation tree crops such as rubber, coconut, sugar cane, cocoa, tea, banana and pineapple, and including non-crop issues relating to land, labor, trade and pricing. An integrated single, powerful voice, MPOA is expected to represent the complex needs of the plantation industry more effectively particularly now that the economy is being rapidly globalized.

3 What is the qualification of becoming a member of MPOA and what is the significance of joining the organization?

Any individual or company who owns or manages plantation in Malaysia with minimum 40 hectares will be qualified to become a member of MPOA. Currently, we have a membership of 129 plantation companies with a total hectareage of 1.85 million hectares. The top ten (10) members of plantation companies are:

1. Sime Darby Plantation Sdn Bhd
2. Felda Global Ventures Plantation Sdn Bhd
3. IOI Corporation Sdn Bhd
4. Tradewinds Plantation Berhad
5. Kuala Lumpur Kepong Berhad
6. Boustead Plantations Berhad
7. Sarawak Oil Palms Berhad
8. Genting Plantations Berhad
9. PPB Oil Palms Berhad
10. Sarawak Land Consolidation and Rehabilitation (SALCRA)

The benefits of being a member of MPOA are as follows:

- Provide representation for the industry at both the domestic and international level.
- Lobby the special interests and needs of the industry.
- Provide long term strategic thinking and direction.
- Shape R&D policies and priorities by working closely with MPOB.



- Support national marketing and promotion efforts.
- Disseminate industry-relevant information to members.

There are a host of issues and challenges faced by the industry and high on the agenda, such as escalating costs, the prevalent labor shortages, growing complexity of commercial competition and the need to focus and prioritize on R&D as well as the ever increasing challenges of sustainability in the light of NGOs attacks.

In this respect, we have three (3) main committees under R&D and Sustainability, Government Affairs and Marketing & Promotion wherein members of plantation companies are represented and these Committees meet on a regular basis to deliberate on the above developments and make appropriate recommendations to the Council for onward submission to the relevant Authorities/Ministries accordingly.

4 MPOA's mission is to ensure the long term profitability and growth of the Malaysian palm oil industry and other plantation crops including oil palm, rubber, coconut, sugar cane, cocoa, tea, banana, and pineapple. What do you think MPOA have contributed in order to achieve the mission as mentioned?

For your information, 90% of our members are from oil palm plantation, while the rest will be from rubber and other plantation crops. In order to achieve our mission, we have done the following objectives:

- Act as the single united voice of the Malaysian oil palm and other plantation tree crop industry.
- Represent oil palm and other plantation crop interests to government, various statutory bodies, stakeholders and external parties.
- Support members by providing specific support services.
- Provide representation for the industry at both the domestic and international levels.

At the same time, I would like to emphasize that a proper research managing is essential to gain a diversity and competitiveness of innovation, which eventually will lead to long term profitability as well. Rubber and palm oil commit to pay CESS for government to be allocated as research fund. Despite having the fund allocation, we need the best researcher as well in order to conduct effective research. I believe these are the reasons which enable Malaysia to become world No. 1 in terms of technology and research in oil palm.

5

Any notable challenges that MPOA has faced so far in order to develop palm oil industry in Malaysia?

First of all, it would be the sustainability issue, for example how to mitigate the climate change which is mentioned in the RMK11 (Eleventh Malaysia Plan 2016-2020). Currently, we are almost reaching the limit of 50% forest cover in Malaysia (which is to remain 50% of forest coverage despite of the industrial activity). As we can see, increasing productivity by expanding land in Malaysia would not be a smart choice for now, while I suggest we should invest more in R&D and innovation. We can go for mechanization and automation as well to become less over relies on the foreign workers. From here, we are facing the second challenge, which is to increase productivity by enhancing ICT at the same time to cut down the implied cost.

Moreover, another challenge would be the challenges from certain NGOs. We certainly understand the importance of complying the rules and regulation for some end benefits. However, it involves some costs which market is not going to bear with. In my opinion, instead of remaining the reactive policy towards some entity, perhaps we might act more proactive as we are actually one of the giant players in palm oil industry, adding with the world No. 1 research technology in palm oil industry.

6 What do you think of the performance of palm oil production compare to other oil crops such as soybean oil, sunflower oil, rapeseed oil and so on?

Currently, there is about 10% of palm oil being exported to Europe while 32-35% palm oil to China and India. I believe there are still potential of growing especially for China and India market while it all depends on how we apply the strategic tactics.

By the way, palm oil and coconut are perennial crops, while other vegetable crops are annual crops. Perennial crops own an advantage of able to withstand drought for 2-3 weeks compare to annual crops. Annual crops might be easily being wiped out if encounter with bad weather or other disaster. Besides, in terms of capacity, palm oil is highly productive, which is between 8-12 times more than other vegetable oil crops.



7 There are certain organizations claimed that palm oil is a threat towards the society. However, studies show that palm oil has plenty of benefits towards economy, social and human life as well. How do you see of the issues and what can be done towards the society in order to plant a correct mindset on palm oil?

We shall continue to tell the truth, we do not believe in the negative campaigns. We shall keep on confronting the false critics made to palm oil. I certainly believe it need more assertive leadership on policy making in order to fight against the issue, at the same time proper coordination from ministries are significant too. For example, they may share the database such as basic information of planters with each other in order to achieve performance efficiency.

8 As the Chief Executive of MPOA, do you have any advice for palm oil industry players in order to standstill in the market?

There are certain things we should do or we shouldn't do. Firstly, stop the reactive policy. Secondly, government should address the coordination of ministries involved with the palm oil industry on matters related to acquisition of foreign workers.

Furthermore, apparently we are the head of R&D, still there are certain fundamentals have to be taken care of such as labor issues, relocation of tax and so on. It's all about strategic issues. We should have proper policy and resource allocation for the stakeholders. We might as well consider

having the best lab for palm oil, as what they did for rubber which is having the best lab in London.

Apart from that, instead of going offshore for palm oil land expanding, I suggest we shall look for new policy positioning to develop our market in different way, which is closer to ecosystem and the supply chain as well, ranging from upstream to downstream until the end consumers. It is because being offshore for further developing might involve some policy which might affect the whole supply chain's benefits too.

Moreover, I would like to advice every palm oil industry players, either big or

small holders, to cooperate instead of competing with each other especially when reaching out to the offshore. We are strong if we are united. It is because the policy will be different when going offshore, while I suggest there should be policy or strategy to take care of the stakeholders from this level. Sime Darby, KLK and IOI are the good example of global players, their needs are different. I believe government is aware of how to provide them a suitable guidance so that their businesses are still remaining in Malaysia at the same time helping the country.

9 There is recent news about collaboration of Malaysia and Indonesia in palm oil production instead of competing with each other. What do you see of the collaboration and how does it work?

Asean Economic Community (AEC) is the platform for this economic integration. Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand produce about 91% of world CPO. Collaboration between these countries will enable a well control of the production and profit sharing, otherwise it might get controlled by other big player.

There is still room of improvement for the collaboration of Malaysia and Indonesia. It requires common destiny, responsibility and policy to build up the collaboration, and of course including the sharing of resources and investment too. I believe AEC offers a common economic integration for palm oil, which benefiting 7-10 million people in the region. Currently ASEAN has 630 million people and it is expecting to be 1.3 billion people by 2050. Thus we must prepare ourselves for economic integration, instead of being independent, we are going for interdependent, as one cannot survive on his own.

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CARGILL PALM PRODUCTS SDN BHD

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OLEON SDN BHD

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INTERVIEW WITH Mr. VICTOR PANG

Head of Business of Sefar Singapore Pte Ltd



1

Share with us a bit about yourself before you joined Sefar Singapore Pte Ltd?

Prior to joining Sefar in 1996, I was the Regional Sales Manager for Fleetguard Inc, a Cummins Diesel Engine company whose main business is manufacturing filters for diesel engines. I was responsible for the Sales & Marketing for the South East Asia market. I travel extensively in the region leading the distributors to achieve our sales targets. The experience brought me to various market segments such as Mining, Marine, Industrial, Automotive, etc.

I joined Sefar when they started expanding in Asia. I liked the company because of the wide spectrum of applications it covers, ranging from the “clean environment” such as Medical, Acoustics, to the very heavy industries such as Mining, Chemical, etc. There was never a dull day at Sefar as I get my hand-on pretty much with every industry.

2

Briefly describe the history and company profile of Sefar ?

Generally, Sefar had went through over 180 years of innovation in the chronological order as below:

1830	Pierre A. Dufour started producing silk bolting cloth for the sieving of flour in Thal (Dufour & Co.).
1907	Foundation of Schweiz. Seidengazefabrik, Thal (SST) and Schweiz. Seidengazefabrik, Zurich (SSZ) from the merger of 6 Swiss manufacturers.
1912	Zuricher Beuteltuchfabrik (ZBF) joined the group, the group dominates the world market for silk bolting cloth.
1930	Mechanical weaving machines replaced hand-operated looms.
+1950	Synthetic fibres replaced natural fibres (silk and cotton).
1995	Merger of SST, SSZ and ZBF to form SEFAR, subdivided into 2 divisions: i) Screen Printing, ii) Filtration. The name Sefar derives from “SEidengaze-FABrikanten-Réunion = group of silk gauze manufacturers.
2009	Acquisition of yarn supplier Monosuisse.

As of today, Sefar is the leading manufacturer of precision fabrics from monofilaments for the screen printing and filtration markets. Our products are used in a wide variety of industries, reaching from electronics, graphics, medical, automotive, food and pharmaceutical applications to aerospace, mining & refining and architecture. With the profound understanding of the applications, we help our customers to achieve optimum results in their industrial processes.

Sefar owns subsidiaries and fabrications centres in 25 countries on 5 continents. It provides local technical service for the broad range of solutions offered by Sefar. Sefar Group operates weaving plants in Switzerland, Romania and Thailand. Its Monosuisse division produces fine and medium yarns in Switzerland and Poland. In 2013 the Sefar Group achieved sales of 298 million Swiss Francs and employed some 2'200 employees worldwide.



» *Conductive performances - Complete range of highly conductive fabrics with Sefar unique yarn*



» *UV Protection - Our highly UV resistant fabrics specially designed to give longer life*



» *FDA & EU compliant for food safety*

3 **Sefar is the leading manufacturer of precision fabrics for the screen printing and filtration markets. The products are used in a wide variety of industries. What do you think have contributed to the company's success in today?**

As I mentioned previously, we are customer oriented. We understand customers' needs and manufacture products which suits the market. We help customers to achieve optimum results in their industrial processes. We emphasize on having good quality products rather than focusing on low pricing. Sefar's products are renowned to be reliable and cost effective and usually carry its distinctive unique product advantage which other competitors do not have.

We have been in the palm oil industry for a long period of time. We observed customers' needs and innovate new products with our advanced technology. Currently Sefar has a new range of products which is specially developed for the palm oil industry. A good example is the filter press cloth, it is one of our antistatic products which are going to be launched in October 2015.

4 **What notable challenges have Sefar Singapore faced so far?**

Sefar is a premium and established brand in the filter industry. However, there are companies who are trying to imitate our product. Recently, there were also counterfeit products being packaged up as Sefar's product. Sometimes we receive complaints from customers questioning the authenticity of whether the product they have is actually from Sefar. Thus, counterfeit products, is one of the notable challenges that we faced so far. In order to solve the problem, we organize a special campaign for customers to learn how to identify between the real Sefar products and the counterfeit products.

Price cutting would be another challenge for us. Some competitors cut down the price and have their products selling much cheaper, which might enable them to seize the market. This is also called a price war. Well, as I mentioned, Sefar is a premium brand and we always assure good quality product for customers. We do not engage in price wars and never compromise on the quality of our products.

5 **Could you please tell us more about the range of products and services provided by Sefar Singapore?**

Sefar Group provides services on process filtration (solutions for solid/liquid filtration, screening and drying processes), filter components (for medical and industrial filter applications such as automotive & appliances), screen printing (wide range of high-quality precision mesh, stretching equipment and accessories) and architecture (creative fabrics for light, acoustic and design effects in exterior and interior applications). As for Sefar Singapore, we are more focused on solutions for refined palm oil filtration. We offer a wide range of fabrics with different availability of antistatic and air permeability level. Those fabrics are being manufactured in weaving pattern as required by the customers' applications.

6 **In your opinion, how does Sefar support the palm oil industry with the innovations?**

We hear from the market on the requirement of the palm oil industry. We develop several innovative products that are a market first in the industry. They are:

- FDA & EU compliant for food safety for our Conductive fabrics. The demand for such food safety requirement is getting stringent and Sefar pave the way for the industry.
- UV resistance Polyamid yarn increases the lifetime and consistency of the fabrics
- Improved stabilisation for the fabrics allows for easy installation of the filter cloth.
- Usage of high conductive yarns provide better antistatic benefits preventing damages to plate and filter cloths

These are the additional features of Sefar's product, which at the moment no other competitor can provide yet.

7 **What are the current major achievements or projects Sefar has managed to secure lately?**

We are proud to say that Sefar is the only filter media supplier in palm oil industry who is FDA certified. We are also the only filter media supplier with fully integrated supply chain, from weaving to manufacturing of raw yarn (acquisition of Monosuisse in 2009 and acquired majority share in its Sider Arc F&M Srl.). Sefar also owns the updated pharma grade fabrication in line with latest EU GMP Guidelines.

8 Any expansion or development plan for Sefar Singapore in the next coming 5 years?

We are planning to have aggressive penetration into the market, for example palm oil industry. We are launching a new range of products with hopes to help customers to achieve optimum results in their industrial processes. This will be done with more distribution channels such as acquiring more sales person or having partnership with more distributors. And of course, we wouldn't just stop here, we will develop more projects which will work in tandem with our marketing strategy.

9 How Sefar strives to stand out against competitors and succeed in an increasingly competitive international marketplace?

Once again, being customer oriented. We only develop ultra-edge new products to help customers with their filtration problems where currently no other competitor has it yet. We insist to provide quality product with best valued pricing. Not to forget that Sefar Group itself owns the widest range of filter media. It has over 100 years of application experience. Sefar also experienced local make up facilities. Besides Sefar also provide complete service-pack, which we believe that we have total responsibility towards our customers. I believe these are the competitive factors which enable Sefar to stand out against competitors and become successful as we are today.



1



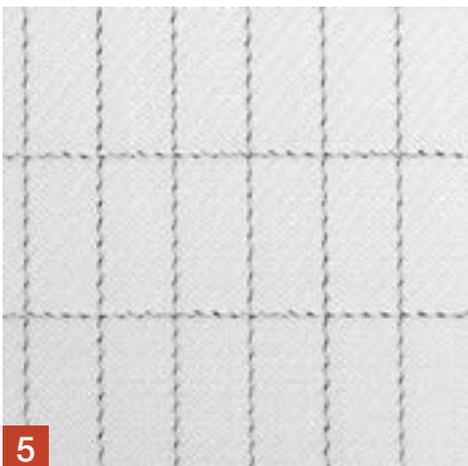
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3



4



5

1 Fabrication Capability

2 SEA Sales team to be near to customer meeting their needs

3 New Sefar Fabrication plant in 2014

4 Sefar Presence in South East Asia to serve our customer

5 Optimised Filtration surface, electrical conductive performance and good cake release

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S E F A R
■ ■ ■ ■



MITIGATING EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

As climate change threatens the agriculture sector, the government sees the need to bring back the country's forest cover by creating a carbon sink to mitigate its effects.

But advocacy group Philippine Palm Oil Development Council Inc. (PPDCI) said that reforestation efforts are best done when stakeholders learn to introduce the planting of oil palm

either in farms as an intercrop or in the denuded forests.

The think-tank even highly recommended this in the priority reforestation program of the government dubbed "National Greening Program" (NGP).

The ultimate goal of NGP is more focused on achieving food security, poverty reduction, climate change adaptation and mitigation. The total target under NGP is 1.5 billion trees in 1.5 million hectares for a period of six years from 2011 to 2016.





“Oil palm has massive root systems that reduce soil erosion in the sloping uplands,” he said. “A new technique of crop-livestock integration, when applied, shall promote crop diversity and added income in the upland.”

Dr. Pablito Pamplona, board of director and secretary of PPDCI (Philippine Palm Oil Development Council Inc.)

Dr. Pablito Pamplona, board of director and secretary of PPDCI, said these crops sequester the carbon and thus prevent the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere in the process. The CO₂ is one of the greenhouse gasses that worsen global warming by trapping in too much heat coming from the sun.

“Oil palm is found to be a better carbon sink than natural forest because it captures higher carbon/unit area,” he said.

A study quoted by Pamplona found that a hectare of three-year-old oil palm trees can sequester 5.8 tons and can go as much as 45.2 tons when these trees are 24 years old as compared to the grassland, which can offset carbon at one ton per hectare.

Also, the planting techniques are just simple, as these crops do not need as much requirements as what other crops do. First, there’s no need to cut the grasses and brushes, much less burning that will only scratch the ground for more environmental risks such as erosion and further damage on the soil.

“Just allow the cut grasses and trees to rot as organic fertilizer for the oil palm trees,” he added.

In the reforestation program, the think-tank recommended this crop as it has higher survival rate of 95 percent under harsh grassland environment as compared to other crops.

He was dismayed over the use of commercial crops like cacao and coffee in the NGP, which will later on die, cut, and turn into charcoal by farmers for

livelihood to sustain their families.

These two crops, he explained, can survive the grassland’s harsh environment when intercropped with oil palm, which prevents soil erosion for its vast root system.

“Oil palm has massive root systems that reduce soil erosion in the sloping uplands,” he said. “A new technique of crop-livestock integration, when applied, shall promote crop diversity and added income in the upland.”

In neighboring Asean countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam, restoring the forests has been successful as they succeeded in reforesting their degraded grasslands using common strategy use of oil palm trees and rubber.

Pamplona also discussed the economic gains of the oil palm industry to the farmers, saying the Asean neighbors are successful in bringing down poverty levels.

“Promoting inclusive growth occurs when the poor, upland dwellers, get equal benefits from the economic growth of the country,” he said.

The country has been lagging behind its Asean neighbors when it comes to cranking up the number of oil palms planted.

In 2013, Indonesia expanded to 10.5 million hectares of oil palms, followed by Malaysia (6 million hectares, Thailand (850,000 hectares) while Philippines was the lowest with 72,000 hectares.

According to PPDCI, the income





that can be generated with oil palm is relatively higher than other crops; easy to plant and maintain; early maturing and long years of harvest; and provides employment opportunities.

Oil palm is also able to produce more even with smaller areas as compared to coconuts.

Say, to produce 1,000 tons of vegetable oil, this crop only takes 234 hectares while coconut takes 1,190 hectares.

For his part, Davao City Investment Promotions Center (DCIPC) officer-in-charge Ivan Cortez said investors who are willing to invest on oil palm are very much welcome in the city.

In fact, there is one investor, who is a major player in Malaysia's oil palm industry, who came to visit to discuss the matter with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

The firm is looking at 1,000-hectare property in Marilog District.

If pushed through, members of the Ovu-Manuvo tribe will benefit from this venture as they will be tapped in the planting of the seedlings.

The official also said that this partnership will empower economically small farmers, especially the ones who own five hectares of land.

Environmental group Panalipdan Southern Mindanao urged the City Government to study before accepting investments on oil palm expansion in Marilog.

The environmental impact must also be considered before the economic gains.

"Paquibato is supposedly one of the important water resource base areas of the city while palm oil is not

grown organically but dependent on chemical inputs which might pollute the local water resources in the uplands and affect the water supplies in the lowlands, a concern that we both shared," it said.

But Pamplona added that among other crops that produce oil, oil palm takes lesser use of fertilizers.

City Councilor Danilo Dayanghirang cited the need to develop the city's upland areas for agriculture as the urbanization of the center is simply not enough to sustain economic growth.

He suggested planting of high-value crops such as coffee, cacao, corn, and rubber as crops that will fit well in the highland communities like in Marilog and Paquibato.

Source: Sun.Star



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SABAH AIMS FOR CSPO STATUS

A move is underway to make Sabah a Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO) producer by 2025.

A proposal will be submitted to the state government, said Sabah Forestry Department director Datuk Sam Mannan.

The Sabah Forestry Department indirectly owns about 100,000ha of planted oil palm plantations.

Both global demand and downstream industries will increasingly pull the supply chain for CSPO.

“Sabah must act to be ahead of the curve.

“While 12% of global palm oil supply comes from Sabah, larger producers will outpace the state’s output,” Mannan added.

With just over a fifth of its land under oil palm, Sabah produces 30% of Malaysia’s palm oil, while Malaysia and Indonesia collectively supply 85% of global needs.

“With certification, Sabah can build itself as a niche producer of a branded item which is certified

palm oil, and compete on the basis of governance and not size,” he added.

Such certification will be in accordance with an internationally recognised standard such as the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO).

The certification will mean that palm oil and all palm derivatives in Sabah will be produced in a legal, ecologically sustainable and socially acceptable manner.

“Jurisdictional certification will also draw bright lines to protect forest reserves, wildlife corridors, High Conservation Value Forests, riparian reserves and improve connectivity in a more coherent manner,” said Mannan.

He noted the oil palm sector was now financing forest conservation and restoration in a big way in Sabah.

Oil palm producers on land owned by the department have already been given notice to be RSPO-certified by the end of 2017.

Source: The Star



AD tank gas storage membrane

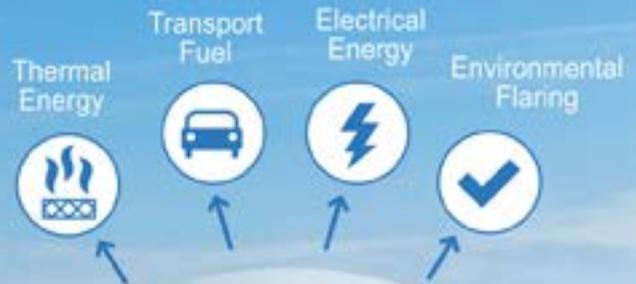


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OIL CAN HELP MINIMISE CANCER RISKS

In the past few decades, cancer has fast become a dreaded disease that threatens human lives. However, a number of treatment approaches to prevent it at an early stage are also gaining steam.

One of the preventive approaches, which has been tested in many cancer models, is through the use of palm-based Vitamin E tocotrienols.

There are two forms of vitamin E — tocotrienols and tocopherols. They exist naturally in some vegetables.

Palm oil is a rich source of tocotrienols and tocopherols — 70 per cent of the vitamin E in palm oil is tocotrienols while the remaining 30 per cent is tocopherols.

In addition to vitamin E, palm oil is also rich in other phytonutrients.

International Medical University Malaysia (IMU) immunologist, Professor Ammu K. Radhakrishnan, said numerous joint research on the benefits of palm tocotrienols in cancer prevention carried out by the university in the past 15 years have yielded encouraging results.

“We have carried out research and development on the palm oil-based



» International Medical University Malaysia immunologist Professor Ammu K. Radhakrishnan says palm oil is a rich source of tocotrienols, which can help boost the immune system and minimise risks of chronic cancer, Parkinson's disease and diabetes. Pix by Zulfadhli Zulkifli

tocotrienols in the past 15 years and our studies have revealed that palm tocotrienols could reduce cancer activities.

“Palm tocotrienols have anti-cancer properties and we are currently looking at how this vitamin is beneficial to our health, boost our natural defense system and fight infections, as well as its response during the healing process,” said Ammu.

She added that scientists are looking at how tocotrienols stimulate the immune system to fight cancer as they are more potent than tocopherols and appear to be an adjuvant that can boost the immune system and keep the balance.

Ammu said there is a misconception that cancer comes from external sources when, in fact, it starts when one's body cells fail to regulate growth and become abnormal or “rogue”.

Cancer cells also require nutrients and other substances to grow and sustain their growth. For this, the cells will secrete chemicals that promote new blood vessels.

Palm tocotrienols have been found to inhibit the growth of new blood vessels, and this may be one of the mechanisms used to fight cancer.

According to Ammu, several studies using experimental models involving laboratory mice have been carried out to test the effectiveness of palm-based tocotrienols for anti-cancer and immune-enhancing effects.

The studies have shown that palm-based tocotrienols have promising anti-cancer and immune-enhancing effects.

A clinical trial conducted in 2011, which involved 120 healthy subjects, showed that palm-based vitamin E was also effective in boosting



immune response to a vaccine.

In addition to anti-cancer and immune-enhancing effects, tocotrienols have other beneficial health effects such as anti-diabetic, cardioprotection, hypocholesterolemic, anti-oxidant, neuroprotective and anti-inflammatory.

Ammu said palm oil is a rich source of tocotrienols that have many benefits such as boosting the immune system and minimising risks of chronic cancer, Parkinson's disease and diabetes.

She, however, advises the public not to only look at the treatment options for cancer but also focus on its prevention, such as staying healthy by eating a balanced diet and doing a regular exercise.

According to Ammu, palm oil is fast gaining traction in the fight against cancer.

“The research is still ongoing and we have to see how to disseminate all these beneficial findings to the public,” she added.

Source: New Straits Time

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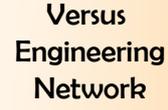
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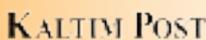


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BIOGAS - RENEWABLE ENERGY FROM ORGANIC WASTE STREAMS

There is increasing focus on protecting the environment and exploiting renewable energy sources. It is now mandatory to treat industrial and agricultural waste streams before discharge. This applies to farms with livestock, food processing plants, breweries, palm oil mills, starch factories, ethanol distilleries, paper mills and municipal sewage treatment plants.

The most cost-efficient method to degrade the organic matter in the waste streams is a biological process without oxygen called anaerobic digestion. Besides breakdown of the organic matter the anaerobic process also produces biogas. Biogas contains 50-70% methane (CH₄), 30-50% carbon dioxide (CO₂) and 0.1 to 3.0% (1,000 to 30,000 ppm) hydrogen sulfide (H₂S).

If the H₂S is removed biogas can be a significant resource as renewable substitute for oil and gas. By utilizing biogas for efficient generation of electricity and heat it is possible both to generate attractive revenues and to meet environmental standards.

Source: Biogas Clean



TOP 20 RICHEST MALAYSIANS 2014

Rank	Name	Current Wealth (RM million)	Flagship
1	Robert Kuok Hock Nien	54,480.00	Kerry Group/Kuok Group
2	T Ananda Krishnan	33,193.88	Usaha Tegas
3	Tan Sri The Hong Piow	18,066.20	Public Bank
4	Tan Sri Quek Leng Chan	14,110.81	Hong Leong Group
5	Tan Sri Lee Shin Cheng	13,115.37	IOI Group
6	Tan Sri Syed Mokhtar Albukhary	11,070.00	Al-Bukhary Foundation
7	Tan Sri Lim Kok Thay	9,434.18	Genting Group
8	Puan Sri Lee Kim Hua	7,467.00	Genting Group
9	Datuk Mokhzani Mahathir	4,222.26	Sapura Kencana Petroleum
10	Tan Sri Azman Hashim	4,108.45	Arab-Malaysian Corp
11	Tan Sri Tiong Hiew King	3,790.00	Rimbunan Hijau
12	Ong Beng Seng	3,530.00	Hotel Properties Ltd
13	Tan Sri Yeoh Tiong Lay	3,220.83	YTL Group
14	Tan Sri Lau Cho Kun	3,120.67	Hap Seng Consolidated
15	Tan Sri Shahril Shamsuddin	2,506.03	Sapura Group
16	Datuk Shahrman Shamsuddin	2,468.65	Sapura Group
17	Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah Fook Ling	2,153.15	Sunway Group
18	Datuk Lee Yew Chor	2,033.81	IOI Group
19	Lee Yeow Seng	2,006.13	IOI Group
20	Tan Sri Vincent Tan	1,924.12	Berjaya Group



9 out of 20 richest Malaysians have their roots in the palm oil industry which serve as the launching pad for their wealth building activities.

Source: Forbes Magazine

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3	Max. Exhaust Pressure (psi)	vac-100	vac-100	vac-100
4	Speed (RPM)	1000-6000	1000-6000	1000-6000
5	Maximum Power (HP)	900	1600	3500
6	Max. Inlet Diameter (in)	4	6	8
7	Max. Exhaust Diameter (in)	10	14	16
8	Hand Control Valve	0-2	0-2	0-2



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high combustion pressures and their geometry has been specially optimized for an ideal combustion chamber and this has helped us achieve significantly higher power density and efficiency. To guarantee the durability of the crankshaft bearings under increasing loads, our bearings use special coatings on the composite bearing shells. The sputter bearings used are characterized by high resistance to corrosion. Our gas engines comes with a combination of analogue and digital control system for Engine Control Unit, Detonation control, Speed & Power control, Gas mixture control, ignition timing control and auxiliary balance of system control to effectively manage the operation of the engines. Prime biogas engine package can be sold as open type for installation inside a building or containerized for outdoor applications. Our gas engine solutions encompass single power train equipment option or turnkey type supply which includes site installation.

Why?

Most gas engines in the market have mechanical efficiency for electrical power production of less than 39% and our engines are at 42%. This is a great value proposition for customers due to the market's demand for higher efficiency and effective use of energy which has a direct correlation to profits realized by our customers. These added profits are not only for the added kW that customers can produce due to higher engine efficiency but it also gives customers more profit for the baseline \$/kW-hr for countries offering high efficiency incentives.

Who?

Jasa Aman Engineering Sdn Bhd is the first company in Malaysia to manufacture and assemble Prime steam turbines designed in the USA since 1996 and have sold more than 2,000 units to date mainly for the biomass palm oil industry. We are now expanding our product offering starting from this year to biogas engine for the biogas palm oil industry. With our company's strong technical background in turbomachinery and power equipment we are confident to contribute value to the marketplace and hope to be the one stop power solution provider in the region.

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additional FiT rates of RM 0.07/kW-hr on top of the current RM 0.40/kW-hr for efficiency above 40% and for locally assembled gas engine. This translates to approximately RM 800,000/year more profits for our customers for each 1 MW of power produced using our engines. These numbers are derived from additional kW produced with efficiency of 42% instead of 39% and also from additional FiT rate incentive outlined above.

When?

Our engines have been sold and are operating in America and Europe since

2005 and we are going to introduce this solution to the Asean region starting from this year.

Future?

We foresee R&D works to continue to push the efficiency envelope of our gas engines to create more direct value for our customers. Prime Gas Turbines will also be launched very soon targeted for the year of 2016 to offer the market another alternative solution for biogas power turbomachinery which has lower electrical efficiency than gas engines but lower maintenance and smaller footprint.

For any questions or applications or if we can help you resolve your biomass & biogas power needs; please do not hesitate to contact us at www.jasaaman.com or at the following:

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FROM PLANTATION TO COMPLETE, STATE-OF-THE-ART PALM OIL COMPLEX

Suksomboon Palm Oil Co. Ltd., Nongyai, Chonburi, Thailand



» *The Suksomboon palm oil complex includes the whole value chain from milling and refining to biodiesel and fats modification.*

Since 1999 Alfa Laval has been Suksomboon's chosen technical partner in their successful transition from plantation to downstream processing of palm oil products. Today, the complex includes milling, refining, dry fractionation and hydrogenation for edible oil, olein, hard stearin, margarine and biodiesel plus various processes related to energy management. The company was also the first to adopt a number of new Alfa Laval technologies.

Suksomboon Palm Oil Co. Ltd. has its origins in a family owned plantation in Nongyai in Thailand's Chonburi Province, East of Bangkok. Today, the company is probably the fastest growing and diversifying oil producer in Thailand.

Alfa Laval has supported the company throughout its impressive, rapid ongoing journey from plantation to mill to 300 t/d refinery to 900 t/d refinery with fats modification.

"We see Alfa Laval as a partner, offering valuable competence in engineering and R&D which enables us to pick the right technology," say the owners Mr. Supachai and Mr. Chana.

Own Mill For Better And Cheaper Crude Palm Oil

The enterprising farmers began their journey towards downstream industrial processing in 1984 when they were among the first in their region to switch from growing yams and sugar cane to oil palms.

For the first 10 years the fruit bunches were transported to a mill in South Thailand. Then, in 1999, to save transport costs and increase oil quality, the farmers established their own oil mill on site with Mr. Chairong joining the management team as technical manager, ensuring the necessary processing experience.

Focus on total cost of ownership

When it came to choosing equipment to produce crude palm oil (CPO), the team's focus was on minimizing operating costs and total cost of ownership. Alfa Laval was chosen to supply desanders, high speed separators and decanters, products that had proven track records in similar mills in terms of reliability and efficiency.

It was possible to sell the crude palm oil to refineries close to Bangkok, an area with a high concentration of end consumers. In cooperation with Alfa Laval, the mill capacity was therefore increased in several steps by adding extra lines. And efficiency was optimized by innovations within the mill process, such as modification of the oil room and settling process. The management team continued working with Alfa Laval "because they have convincing equipment performance, and they provided competent support".

Physical refining and fractionation

In 2007 Suksomboon moved further down the value chain and installed a conventional physical refining plant and a dry fractionation plant for edible oil, and to get a cheaper feedstock for its biodiesel plant. First step included a refinery capacity of 300 t/d to match the mill's production of CPO. According to Suksomboon's management Alfa Laval was again chosen "because we believed in their technology, and they showed flexibility in meeting our special requirements".

Learning by doing – and creating new ideas

While gaining experience in refining operation, the creative management team soon began experimenting with new methods to further improve the process – not taking the well-established process for granted as best option. The continuous dialogue and close cooperation with Alfa Laval has led to several new innovative solutions.

Degumming and bleaching with less waste and oil loss

One of the initiatives was to install a high-speed separator for removal of the gum from the oil before entering the bleacher, and addition of an extra filter to enable pre-filtration before bleaching. The main purpose is to reduce the consumption of bleaching earth – and hence the amount of spent bleaching earth containing non-recoverable oil.

Own consumer brands established

The team successfully identified a large domestic market for the attractive very light coloured palm olein (soybean look alike) and selected an appropriate refining process. They established their own consumer brands, Chaiyo and Tabtim, so successfully that there was a minimal need for

traditional marketing activities.

Tripled refining capacity in just 4 years

With customers “queueing up”, Suksomboon was ready to triple its refinery capacity just 4 years later with a new 600 tpd plant. Many aspects of the new state-of-the-art refinery are the result of close teamwork between Suksomboon and Alfa Laval. “We chose to continue the collaboration because Alfa Laval could adapt our ideas and integrate them into their offering.”

The new refinery went into operation in 2011 and capacity was almost immediately fully utilized.

New, innovative technologies for deodorization and fractionation

Alfa Laval innovations in the refinery includes adding a prestripping, reheating after pre-stripping, and a post-stripping stage – a cost-effective continuous deodorization process (SoftColumn Dual-Strip) for high quality oil. The plant also includes a double scrubber with possible recovery of a tocotrienol-rich stream.



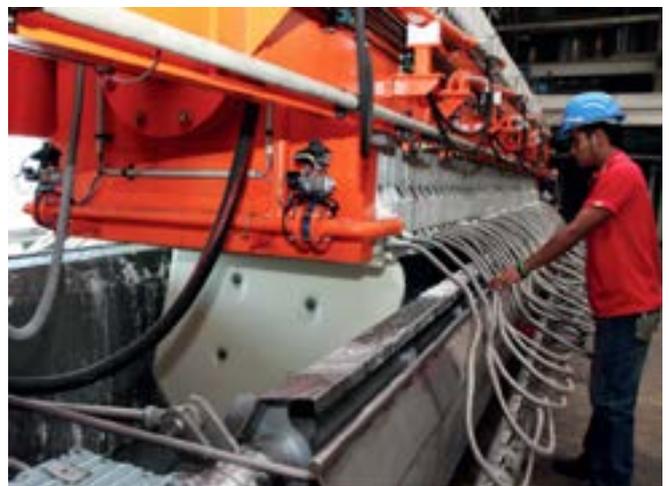
» In the oil mill Alfa Laval decanters clarify and purify the crude palm oil.



» The entrepreneurial management team at Suksomboon has turned their plantation into a fast growing, advanced and diversified industrial palm oil complex in just one decade.



» More than 10 Alfa Laval separators are used to recover crude oil, and to remove gum before the refinery's bleacher.



» The dry fractionation plant delivers various fractions for edible purposes oil as well as cheap feedstock for Suksomboon's biodiesel plant.

For the dry fractionation plant Alfa Laval supplied a test crystallizer equipped with various features. Among those are Iso-Mix rotary jet heads used to spray and melt solid deposits inside the crystallizer, and with pre-cooling in the filling line. Compared to the conventional energy-consuming crystallizer cleaning by filling up the crystallizer, this process saves chilling energy and time, thus increasing capacity.

Integrated, industrial complex

Suksomboon's success in a competitive market is closely related to how they have managed to integrate and diversify their operation. The present industrial complex is an advanced example of how integration of efficient energy management across the whole complex leads to low overall operation costs.



» The market success of Soksomboon's own consumer brands Chaiyo and Tabtim, of very light coloured edible palm oil sparked the rapid expansion of refining capacity from 300 to 900 t/d.



Just a decade after they started milling the fruit bunches, the industrial complex now comprises full milling and refining lines, biodiesel production from palm oil and soon also from palm fatty acid distillate, biogas production and electricity net generation, biomass steam boiler, production of chilled water by absorption chillers driven by excess steam. It also hosts full range packaging facilities with bottle manufacturing from plastic granules as well as margarine production with general aseptic packaging.

Next step: Hydrogenation

Suksomboon continues to grow and diversify, and the owners still see a lot of unexplored business opportunities ahead. The next joint expansion project is a 200 t/d Alfa Laval hydrogenation plant for delivery end 2012, heralding the company's entry into the specialty fats market for both palm oil and palm kernel oil.

Social responsibility

During the serious floods which hit large areas of Thailand in 2011, Suksomboon used its margarine plant for bottling mineral water, which was freely distributed. This humanitarian action is an example of Suksomboon's serious approach to social responsibility.



⤴ The refinery's latest deodorization process (SoftColumn Dual-Strip) includes both pre-stripping and post-stripping plus a double scrubber with possible recovery of the highly potent vitamin E antioxidant tocotrienol.

⤵ Alfa Laval heat exchangers contribute to the efficient energy management at the palm oil complex.

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CO-OPS THE WAY FORWARD TO HELP SMALL-TIME OIL PALM PLANTERS



The setting up of palm oil cooperative here is a way forward to help small-time oil palm planters in rural areas get fair prices for their fresh fruit bunches (FFBs).

Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah said the programme would enable them to work together and make it easy for them to administer their plantations.

“It will help them sell their FFBs in a more effective manner,” he told a press conference here yesterday.

He added that with a cooperative they could transport and sell the FFBs immediately.

This would solve the logistic problems for poorer planters in sending the FFBs to the collection centres.

Earlier, Uggah officiated at the transformation programme and development for small-time oil palm planters in Sarawak at Hotel Sri Simanggang here.

Uggah said research had been carried out to set up this cooperative for smallholders in Sri Aman area like what was done in Saratok.

The cooperative in Saratok helped members sell the FFBs to the factory at a better price, he said.

The government, he added, had given an initial assistance of RM40,000 when the cooperative was set up and would help to manage a loan of RM200,000 as working capital.

He said the objective was to ensure the cooperative was able to pay for the FFBs in cash.

The problem was that when planters sold their FFBs to the mill, they received payment late but when they sold to the collection centre they received immediate payment in cash.

“The setting up of the cooperative will eliminate this problem. There are 10 such cooperatives in Sarawak and seven are already in operation,” he said, adding that the most successful one was in Saratok.

Assistant Minister of Agriculture (Research and Marketing) Datuk Mong Dagang, Sri Aman MP Masir Kujat, Sri Aman Resident Jonathan Lugoh and head of Malaysian Palm Oil Board (Sarawak), Sulim Lumong were among those present at the function.

Source: Borneo Post

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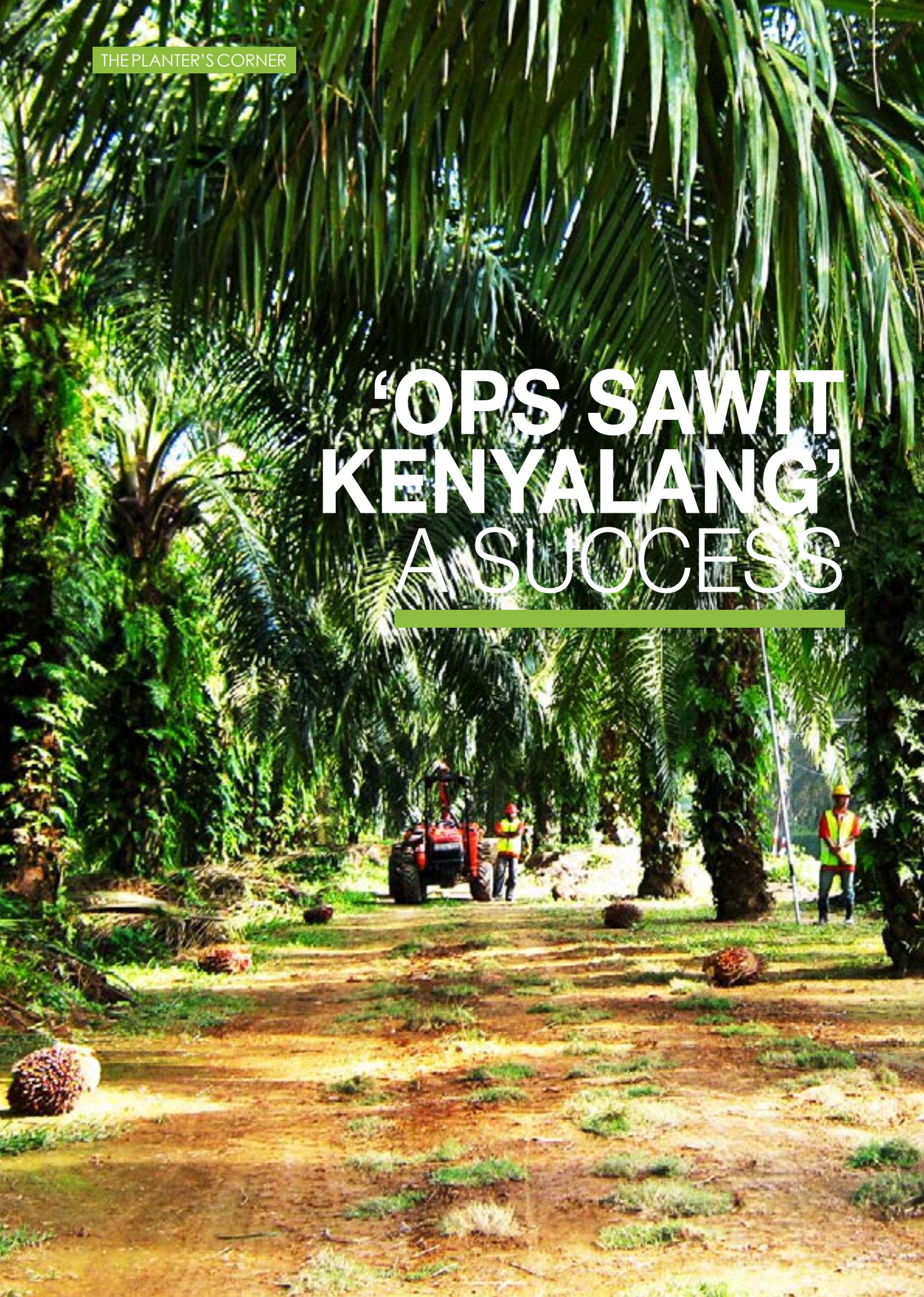
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'OPS SAWIT KENYALANG' A SUCCESS





Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB)'s 'Ops Sawit Kenyalang' that was launched last July has achieved remarkable success with at least 800 new licences issued monthly to smallholders throughout the state.

MPOB Sarawak regional head Sulim Lumong said the monthly 800 new licencees represented an increase of 600 new licencees when compared to the figure before the launch of the special operation.

"For the month of April this year, we approved 1,414 applications. Up to date, we have 23,000 licenced smallholders with a total area of 140,188 hectares for the whole of Sarawak," he said when met by reporters at a new palm oil plantation site at Kampung Sg Alit here yesterday.

Sulim pointed out that the big increment happened after the government implemented the 'two tonnes per hectare' policy.

"A lot of smallholders did not apply for the licence because they can tumpang (ask help for sale) here and there. When we implemented the policy, they cannot sell already. So they got no choice but to apply."

He said farmers were not required to register when they first started out, but a smallholder licence must now be acquired before they could sell the fresh fruit bunch (FFB).

Smallholders refer to those with plantation sites

spanning 100 acres (or 40.46 hectares) and below. Those planting above 100 acres are categorised as estate owners.

"That is why for Ops Sawit Kenyalang, we do not go into estates. And for smallholders, licences are given free."

Earlier, Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas admitted that some smallholders in the state were still without licences.

"But I cannot blame them. Maybe MPOB have not done enough explanations and so forth. After Ops Sawit Kenyalang, we will intensify the programme, going to the ground and shorten the application period."

Uggah said the Board had been directed to approve applications within a week.

Following a directive of the state government to all palm oil mills and collection centres not to accept FFB from unlicensed smallholders, he said more smallholders were coming forward to apply for one.

"We are very strict now. All the mills and collection centres are required to submit a list of sellers of FFB so that we can monitor. That is one of the issues that had been raised by the chief minister and MPOB should resolve it."

Source: Borneo Post

OIL PALM FARMERS HAIL **SOLIDARIDAD** FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION

Oil Palm farmers in Tarkwa and surrounding areas have hailed the contributions of Solidaridad to the boosting of their yields and for the renewed interest in the cultivation of the crop.

Solidaridad West Africa, not-for-profit organisation that supports the sustainable development of farmers and production systems, started providing technical support to farmers in Tarkwa and surrounding areas in the Western Region, about two years ago.

“Two years ago, I almost sold my farm because of poor yields,” Mr Kwame Adentwi of Obeyeyie farms told the GNA on his farm after an outreach programme.

“But I changed my mind when I attended a course in Cape Coast organised by Solidaridad. I’ve never regretted doing so because now I am making good money,” he added.

Mr Adentwi said the surprising element in all the support that Solidaridad provides is that it is free of charge to the farmer.

The support, which is under the Sustainable West Africa Oil Palm Programme (SWAPP), is funded by the Dutch Government.

SWAPP’s goal is to increase the productivity and profitability of small and medium scale enterprises with the programme expected to reach more than 1,000 small holder farmers within two years.

The two-year programme is to enable farmers to adopt best agronomic and management practices to boost production to meet the huge demand for oil palm.

The programme is also targeted at the youth to entice them to see the oil palm sector as a productive venture for a life time business.

Farmers are taught best management practices which include ground cover, pest, canopy, rotational and soil managements, among others and through these, most farmers had increased their yields.

Findings from SWAPP’s studies of best management practices of oil palm farms have shown that simple agronomic practices of pruning, weeding, creation of paths and regular harvesting of fruits at a 10- day interval increases farmer’s yield by more than 60 per cent.

Tuffour Quaicoe, a 37- year- old farmer who has four hectares under cultivation, said the adherence to best practices, such as fertiliser application and harvesting times had helped him increase the yield on his farm to 19.4 tonnes from 9.5 tonnes per hectare.

“My advice to farmers is to adopt the methods being taught them. I know they will reap from it,” he said.

Mr Yusif Aidoo-Mensah, Chairman Tarkwa Area Oil Palm Farmers Association, which groups 52 farmers cultivating more than 270 hectares, said Solidaridad entry and intervention to farmers in the area was God sent.

“We’ve all lost hope in the cultivation of the crop as yields were falling from year to year. But their interventions have helped to restore lost hopes,” he said.

“With the adoption of the best management practices, I’ve seen my

yield per hectare increase to 13 tonnes per hectare from a low of 2.5 tonnes per hectare. My hope is that every farmer should benefit,” Mr Aidoo-Mensah added.

Ms Kosi Yankey, Agri-business Incubator Specialist, who spoke on the SWAPP incubator and access to finance component, said it is open to oil palm farmers, mill operators, and input supplies through a transparent and competitive selection criterion.

She said the main aim of the incubator and finance programme is to encourage more capital to flow into the sector by the risk capital investments, improving expected returns and raising awareness.

Ms Yankey said through the SWAPP Incubator and Access to Finance farmers are provided financial support to enhance growth of their businesses at a minimal interest rate.

She said the funds are available to support fertiliser procurement, yield restoration, farm expansion and acquisition of equipment.

Ms Yankey said the support is a revolving fund and must be paid within 15 months so that other farmers could also benefit from it.

Rosemary Addico, Oil Palm Programme Manager Ghana, Solidaridad West Africa, said once farmers began to reap the benefits from the best management practices, the sector would become interesting to financial institutions to provide the necessary funding, which is a major handicap to most farmers.

Source: Ghana Web



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HOW TO START OIL PALM PLANTATION IN NIGERIA

Oil Palm Seedling

Red oil palm tree is one of the most useful plant in the world. Nothing in palm tree that is not useful, from the fruit to the palm frond, everything is used for one thing or the other that brings benefit to man. The use of red oil palm fruit to extract edible and useful red oil has been in practice all over the world for many centuries.

Almost the entire economy of countries such as Malaysia depends on palm oil exportation. Making the country one of the biggest player in the palm oil industry, account for the estimated 5% of global productions. Malaysia is currently producing more than 20 million tonnes of palm oil and holds the second largest palm oil producer position in the world.

One funny truth is that Malaysia we are talking about actually got their palm fruit from Nigeria who used to be the origin of this product and one of the biggest producer in the past. What really happened to this sector

of viable agriculture in Nigeria? If the wealth of entire nation could depend on this product, does that not tell you the amount of revenue in palm oil plantation business?

Palm oil is the red oil extract from the oil palm fruit 'Elaeis guineensis' while palm kernel oil is also derived from the seed of the same oil palm fruit. Palm oil is the best cooking oil in the world due to its low content of cholesterol. It is a healthy cooking oil, more health than the vegetable oil in the market.

Palm oil is sold both in the local and international markets. If you have good quantity of palm oil, selling it is never a problem because it is a product that always in high demand. A good palm oil plantation is capable of producing thousands of tonnes of palm oil in a year that can be sold for million of naira in the local market or exported to overseas and sell for foreign currency.

Why are Nigerian farmer shying

away from this goldmine? The main reason most Nigerian farmers are not paying attention to oil palm plantation is because they think that palm tree take so many years to mature to the point of production, therefore they are not ready to wait. That is total ignorance, there are varieties of palm tree that starts producing just two years after planting.

This means, if you start your own palm plantation this year, you could start harvesting your palm produce in two years time! If that is the case, then what are you waiting for? Start planting oil palm tree now and let's see how it goes in two years from now.

This is how to proceed with setting up your oil palm plantation.

Look for suitable land - Almost all lands in Nigeria, especially East and West is suitable for palm tree survival and proper yield. Get a good quantity of land in acres in a good location. Good location I mean land in a place



» High Yield Palm Oil Tree

that is motorable, at least tractors and lorries would be able to get in there.

If you are not sure of the quality of the land soil, whether it is suitable for palm tree plantation or not, you can take the sample to **Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm Research (NIFOR)** they will be able to analyze and make recommendation. You can get much more additional information from them as regard your venture and the merits.

After buying the land, you prepare it in good condition - I recommend that you use Tractor Soil Pulverizers to loosen the soil, pulverize, and level packed or encrusted soils, removing hard roots in preparation for palm seeding, making them well suited for planting.

But before preparing the land, you have to get the palm nursery ready. You have two options:

Germinate your own seed - Get the high yield seed from the Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm Research or any other places you can find it and make it germinate. If you do not take care of the seeds, it will take them several years to germinate. To make it germinate fast, the seeds are kept in a very hot room. This makes the seeds to germinate in about 90 to 100 days.

When the seeds are germinated, you transfer them into small plastic container with black loam manured soil. They will

grow new leaf every month. The young seedlings will stay in the container for 4 to 5 months. When the seedling begins to bring out new leaf with two points (bifid leaf) you start transplanting the seedling to the nursery.

The seedlings will stay in the nursery for 1 year. By that time, they will have about 15 green leaves, then you finally transplant them into your prepared farm land. The overall period it will take before the seedlings are transplanted into the farm 15 to 17 months old.

Or you can just go to the agriculture institute to buy already prepared seedling at about N120 per seedling. If you are planting 10,000 palms, you will have to have $120 \times 10,000 = \text{N}1.2 \text{ Million}$. So, germinating your own seedling is less costly but takes some times.

Planting your Seedlings - You palm need to be planted preferably at the rainy season when it will have enough water in the soil for sustaining the young palm. Plant with proper spacing, taking into cognizance grown period when the palm frond will be spread all over the place.

"My experience with oil palm plantation. I started my own oil palm nursery in early 2011 with 1575 seeds, bought from NIFOR at N15,000 per pack, each pack had 525 seeds. I grew the nursery for 14 months. by June 2012

I cleared land for planting. pegging was carried out, then digging and planting. 1050 trees were planted, it took me almost 4 weeks with 10 men to carry out the all work on a 7 hectare farm.

Spacing for my palms was 7[10] meters by 7[10] meters in a triangle. First weeding and fertilizer application was carried out after 3 months. NPK Fertilizer was applied to each palm tree. Second weeding was done 3 months latter, towards the end of the raining season. By may this year, I had carried out first weeding and fertilizer application I bought 3 bags of NPK Fertilizers at N6,800 per bag (open market price, may 2013) most of the labor was done by myself with the help of some relative. The land used is inherited land. the money I have spend thus far is around N250,000. -Felixo1, Nairaland forum."

It is important to plant at the right density, the spacing in the above quotation is considered low density and low density oil palm doesn't produce well. Therefore, to be sure of the right density before planting, you must peg out the area properly. The distance must be the same between rows and in each row should also be the same distance between oil palms.

"If the oil palms are planted too close together, the roots get in each others way, and the leaves do not have enough air and sun: the yield will be low. If the oil palms are not planted close enough together, each separate tree produces much, but the roots do not use all the soil: the yield per hectare will be low."

The proper pegging measurement

- Trace lines across the slope and put in your pegs in straight lines; leave 7.8 meters between rows and 9 metres between pegs. In this way you can plant 143 oil palms per hectare; this is the best density. Pull out tree stumps and remove fallen trees close to the pegs, because these stumps and trees would interfere with the oil palms.

Having done your part of setting up your oil palm plantation in Nigeria, the next is to maintain it and wait for your yield. Palm tree starts yielding fruits just two years after planting. From that moment onwards, you will be harvesting cash all year round for generations.

Source: Wealth Result

RM1 MILLION FEDERAL AID FOR 95 OIL PALM SMALLHOLDERS

Ninety-five smallholders in Kampung Sg Alit here have received federal subsidies totalling over RM1 million for planting oil palm.

Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas said the subsidies were for land preparation and purchase of seedlings, fertilisers and pesticides.

“The total area is 118 hectares and RM9,000 is given per hectare. This is for a period of two years and should enable the smallholders to produce fresh fruit bunch (FFB),” he said when met by reporters after presenting the subsidies to representatives at Kampung Sg. Alit, about 100km from Kuching yesterday.

Present was Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Nancy Shukri.

Uggah said the government also granted subsidies of RM3,000 per hectare for smallholders who were not participants of the Smallholders Development and Transformation Programme.

Each family is entitled to such subsidy for a maximum of three hectares.

“We notice some smallholders are keen to plant oil palm so they buy seedlings and do land preparation themselves. But along the way they have problems buying the inputs, and that's where we come in to support them.

“It is part of the programme of finding ways and means of raising the income of our farmers in rural areas. One of the best crops we promote is oil palm. At the moment, oil palm seems to be able to give them quite a good income.”

On complaints that some

smallholders in the state did not receive the full amount of subsidies, he advised participants to not just get the details first but also discuss with officers of the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB).

“As far as the Barisan Nasional (BN) government is concerned, all expenditure must be accounted for. That is why with Nancy, we are on the ground to see how the implementation is going and to gather feedback as well.

“This is because the BN government wants it to succeed to help raise farmers' income, and the farmers also hope the programme will raise their income.”

In Sarawak, Uggah said while MPOB was the implementation body, it was assisted by Sarawak Agriculture Department (SAD) and the Land and Survey Department (LSD).

According to him, all applications go to SAD, but when their lands are without a title and involved Native Customary Right (NCR) issues, LSD would decide whether NCR land titles should be issued.

“A lot of NCR lands do not have titles, so we are giving room to those who have NCR lands that belong to them but have yet to get the title. They can get certified by both SAD and LSD.”

Meanwhile, Nancy said the current farm road spanning 7km at the new plantation site had been categorised as part of the agropolitan project.

“If you wonder why the road is like this, actually this road is new. That is why I want to find out how long it goes and then we can tar it later. This is a project under agropolitan, so the Public Works Department (JKR) will do it.



» Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas

“At least the farmers have a road instead of just using boat. For previous projects like in Kampung Telegam, Ba and Sabang, it took about a year to complete.”

Uggah led a convoy carrying representatives of MPOB and the media to Kampung Sg. Alit where the farm road leading to the plantation site was muddy due to the rain.

Some vehicles got stuck in the mud along the 7km farm road amidst drizzles, while two or three others did not make it to the site.

At Kampung Sg. Alit, MPOB officers assisted some smallholders apply for licences to sell FFB.

After Kampung Sg. Alit, the entourage visited a cocoa farm in Kampung Kujang Saing and a pepper farm in Kampung Jenan in Serian.

Source: Borneo Post

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CO₂ TO INCREASE OER IN OIL PALM INDUSTRIES

One area that plantation owners have overlooked is the need of CO₂ to maintain optimum yield, here is a short introduction into the subject of Carbon Dioxide Enrichment to reduce stress in plants.

Thousands of laboratories and field experiments have conclusively demonstrated that enriching the air with carbon dioxide stimulates the growth and development of nearly all plants. They have also revealed that higher CO₂ concentrations dramatically enhance the efficiency with which plants utilize water, sometimes as much as doubling it in response to a doubling of the air's CO₂ content. These CO₂-induced improvements typically lead to the development of more extensive and active root systems, enabling plants to more thoroughly explore larger volumes of soil in search of the nutrients they need. Consequently, even in soils lacking sufficient water and nutrients for good growth at today's CO₂ concentrations, plants exposed to the elevated atmospheric CO₂ levels expected in the future generally show remarkable increases in vegetative, sugar, starch and oil production, which should enable them to successfully colonize low-rainfall areas that are presently too dry to support more than isolated patches of desert vegetation and crops.

Elevated levels of atmospheric CO₂ also enable plants to better withstand the growth-retarding effects of various environmental stresses, including soil salinity, air pollution, high air temperatures, and air-borne and soil-borne plant pathogens. In fact, atmospheric CO₂ enrichment can actually mean the difference between life and death for vegetation growing in extremely stressful circumstances like the La-Lina and El-Nino weather in our regions. In

our mono cropping culture of Oil Palm Trees which are C3 photosynthetic plants, the Carbon Dioxide concentration is between 300 to 400ppm. Palm Trees will perform well when the CO₂ level is increased up to 1000ppm. Perhaps the best known consequence of enriching the air with CO₂ is that plant growth and development is enhanced, with higher CO₂ presence the plant will be able to withstand higher temperature better and remember that the C from CO₂ build the plant tissues. This is because, at a fundamental level, carbon dioxide is the basis of almost all life on Earth; it is the primary raw material utilized by plants to produce the organic matter out of which they construct their tissues. Consequently, the more CO₂ there is in the air, the better plants grow, be they terrestrial or aquatic. Such has been the conclusion of literally hundreds if not thousand of laboratories and field experiments conducted over the years.

For an approximate doubling of the air's CO₂ content, the wealth of data that has been accumulated over decades of meticulous research has convincingly demonstrated that the growth or productivity of most herbaceous plants rises by about a third, while that of most woody species increases by 50% or more. It should come as no surprise, therefore, that the father of modern research in this area -- Dr. Sylvan H. Wittwer -- has stated that "it should be considered good fortune that we are living in a world of gradually increasing levels of atmospheric CO₂."



More CO2 Means Less Water Stress for Plants

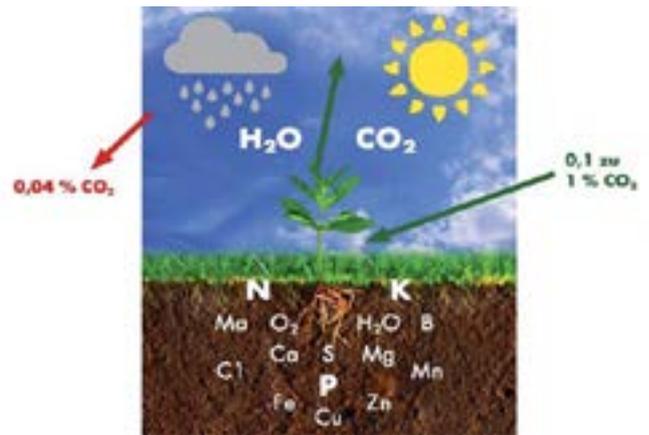
Another major benefit of atmospheric CO₂ enrichment is that plants exposed to elevated levels of atmospheric CO₂ generally do not open their leaf stomata through which they take in carbon dioxide and give off water vapor - as wide as they do at lower CO₂ concentrations. In addition, they tend to produce less of these pores per unit area of leaf surface at higher levels of atmospheric CO₂.

Both of these changes tend to reduce most plants' rates of water loss by transpiration; and the amount of carbon they gain per unit of water lost - or water-use efficiency - therefore typically rises, greatly increasing their ability to withstand drought. The reduction in leaf evaporation rate produced by this phenomenon can be as much as a third for a doubling of the air's CO₂ content; and combining this effect with the simultaneous 30 to 50% CO₂ - induced increase in plant productivity, dramatically increases the efficiency with which individual leaves utilize water to produce organic matter.

In many cases, a doubling of the atmospheric CO₂ concentration actually doubles leaf water use efficiency.

A second way by which atmospheric CO₂ enrichment improves plant water relations is by increasing plant turgor, which is essential for proper vegetative growth and development. Very briefly, this phenomenon begins with a

CO₂ - induced increase in leaf carbohydrate concentration, which then enhances leaf osmotic potential and ultimately helps to maintain adequate leaf water contents for continued photosynthesis and growth in the face of declining soil moisture availability. The many ramifications of these several atmospheric CO₂ enrichment effects on plant water relations are truly impressive. As the atmosphere's carbon dioxide concentration rises ever higher in the years ahead, nearly all plants should be able to grow where it is presently too dry for them, enabling the most drought-resistant species to reclaim great tracts of land previously lost to desertification. Greater vegetative cover should also reduce the adverse effects of soil erosion caused by the ravages of wind and rain.

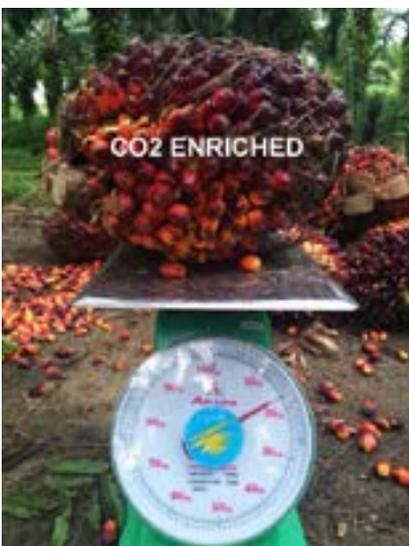


Typically, doubling of the air's CO₂ content above present-day concentrations raises the productivity of most herbaceous plants by about one-third; and this positive response occurs in plants that utilize all three of the major biochemical pathways (C₃, C₄, CAM) of photosynthesis. On average, a 300-ppm increase in atmospheric CO₂ will result in yield increases of 15% for CAM crops, 49% for C₃ cereals, 20% for C₄ cereals, 24% for fruits and melons, 44% for legumes, 48% for roots and tubers and 37% for vegetables.⁸ Thus, with more CO₂ in the air, the growth and productivity of nearly all crops will increase, providing more food to sustain the biosphere. In addition to increasing photosynthesis and biomass, another major benefit of rising atmospheric CO₂ is the enhancement of plant water use efficiency. Studies have shown that plants exposed to elevated levels of atmospheric CO₂ generally do not open their leaf stomata hence reducing the plant having to respire and having to expel more moisture. This will result in water saving and sustaining drought better.

Reducing Plant Stress Resulting in Higher and Better Crop Quality

When plants do not have to fight for it's survival they will have the whole time doing what they are designed to do, producing more and better crops.

Source: Mr Kester Chin





6th INTERNATIONAL PALMEX MALAYSIA 2015

PALMEX MALAYSIA EXPO AND CONFERENCE READY TO WELCOME INTERNATIONAL VISITORS AND EXHIBITORS!

6th International Palmex Malaysia 2015 scheduled to be held on 29th -31st July 2015 is all set to welcome more than 5,000 visitors at Dewan Perdana, Lahad Datu, Sabah which supported & endorsed by Ministry Of Industrial Development, Department of Industry Development Research (DIDR), POIC Sabah, Sawit Kinabalu, Malaysia Palm Oil Association and Eastern Palm Oil Association.

This international event which boasts of big names such as YKL Engineering Sdn Bhd, Muar Ban Lee Group Berhad (MBL), SIRIM QAS International Sdn Bhd, Tencate Geosynthetics Asia Sdn Bhd, Sawit Kinabalu Sdn Bhd, Rexnord Asia Pacific Pte Ltd, Acme Seals (M) Sdn Bhd, Amkco Pte Ltd, Tenaga Tiub Sdn Bhd, Cetrade (M) Sdn Bhd, POIC Sabah Sdn Bhd, Jasa Aman Engineering Sdn Bhd and more would be showcasing their latest products such as Palm Oil Industry Machine, Centrifugal Separation Equipment, Water Pumps, Waste Water Treatment, Bio Based Product, Valve & Accessories and more.

There are exhibitors from categories such as in palm kernel oil expeller, empty fruit bunch machinery, soil stabilization, soil road sealant, valves, bio-technology, palm oil chain, wastewater & dewatering pumps and bearings. Currently, there are 85% been occupied for Palmex Malaysia 2015. Therefore, we are targeting more than 5,000 industry professionals to visit to the exhibition.

The 2 days of Empowering Palm Oil Technology Conference & Technical Seminar on Green Technology of Palm Oil Biomass will held side by side of the exhibition. The renowned speakers from the region will be sharing latest palm oil biomass technology to the local Palm oil industry player.

Visitors would be greeted with a myriad of displays of the latest products and technologies in the palm oil industry. Interactive sessions which allow visitors to get more "hands-on" with the product exhibits are also welcomed by the exhibitors who have spent more than a year in preparation for this fully "sold out" inaugural event in Sabah.

Despite being one of the top palm oil producers in Malaysia, Sabah had never had international palm oil exhibition of such a scale. Dato' Jerel Soo, Managing Director of Fireworks Event (M) Sdn Bhd who is the brain behind this event, has pledged to organize this event on an annual basis to ensure palm oil industry here would be regularly educated and updated on the latest in technological advancements through this major international exhibition which features world class exhibitors from Singapore, Malaysia, UK, US, China, Korea, Italy, Germany, Indonesia, Japan and more.

6th International Palmex Malaysia 2015 runs from 29th -31st July 2015 at Dewan Sri Perdana, Lahad Datu, Sabah. Admission to this event is complimentary and open only to trade visitors and educational institutes. Visitors who would like to pre-register online to avoid the hassle of queuing up for the event can pre-register now at www.asiapalmoil.com. Educational institutes who would like to conduct a tour of this event can contact Gloria via email at gloria@asiafireworks.com.

About Fireworks Event (M) Sdn Bhd

Fireworks Event (M) Sdn Bhd is part of the Fireworks Trade Media Group, a large conglomerate of media companies which owns businesses ranging from directories and magazines to exhibitions and conferences. With more than 12 years of rich media experience under their belt, Fireworks seeks to deliver exciting trade exhibitions with its strong industrial networks and contacts. Fireworks which is headquarter in Singapore also have its regional offices in Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand. With a rich think-tank of ideas and a young innovative team led by an experienced veteran, Fireworks is set to light up the dull local industrial exhibitions scene with its fiery display of loud ideas at shows. For more information please log on to www.asiafireworks.com.





2 DAYS EVENT SPECIALLY DEDICATED FOR THE **PALM OIL INDUSTRY** IN THE BORNEO WHICH READY TO WELCOME INTERNATIONAL VISITORS AND EXHIBITORS!

Palm Oil Sarawak Expo 2015 scheduled to be held on 4th -5th September 2015 is all set to welcome more than 6,000 visitors at Miri Indoor Stadium, Sarawak which supported & endorsed by Sarawak Ministry Of Land Development.

This international event which boasts of big names such as YKL Engineering Sdn Bhd, Muar Ban Lee Group Berhad (MBL), HK Kitaran Sdn Bhd and more would be showcasing their latest products such as Palm Oil Industry Machine, Centrifugal Separation Equipment, Water Pumps, Waste Water Treatment, Bio Based Product, Valve & Accessories and more. There are exhibitors from categories such as in palm kernel oil expeller, empty fruit bunch machinery, soil stabilization, soil road sealant, valves, bio-technology, palm oil chain, wastewater & dewatering pumps and bearings. Currently, there are 70% been occupied for Palm Oil Sarawak Expo 2015. Therefore, we are targeting more than 6,000 industry professionals to visit to the exhibition.

Visitors would be greeted with

a myriad of displays of the latest products and technologies in the palm oil industry. Interactive sessions which allow visitors to get more "hands-on" with the product exhibits are also welcomed by the exhibitors who have spent more than a year in preparation for this fully "sold out" inaugural event in Sarawak.

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Numerous enquiries are storming in after successful delivery of world's first session of Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) MS 2530:2013 Lead Auditor Course by DQS Certification on Jan 2015. The second session of this course was again, planned and conducted on May 2015 in respond to the industry requests.

And now, it has been elevated to the ONLY MSPO LEAD AUDITOR COURSE recognized by the governing body – MPOB.

Participants from Oil Palm Industry (Ta Ann Holdings Berhad, JC Chang Group, Sime Darby Plantation, Sabah Softwoods Berhad, Achi Jaya Sdn. Bhd.) and Refinery (Nestleoil) fully enjoyed the benefits of this course which according to Dr. Ainie of MPOB that it is recognized as qualification course to be a MSPO Auditor. Participants also acquired the necessary knowledge and skills to proficiently plan and perform internal and external audits in compliance with ISO 19011; the certification process according to ISO 17021. Based on practical exercises, the participants developed the skills (mastering audit techniques) and competencies (managing audit teams and audit program, communicating with customers, conflict resolution, etc.) necessary to efficiently conduct an audit. As usual, effectiveness of the training needs to be assessed and for this course, it was evaluated by the examination undertaken during the last session of the course. Visit us on the web at www.dqs.com.my or email to mspo@dqs.com.my for further info.

Source: MBIC



» The MSPO Lead Auditors in Making – Participants with our honoured trainer, Dr. Ainie Kuntom (MPOB's Senior Research Fellow of Food Safety and Codes of Practice Certification Unit, Product Development & Technical Advisory Services Division).

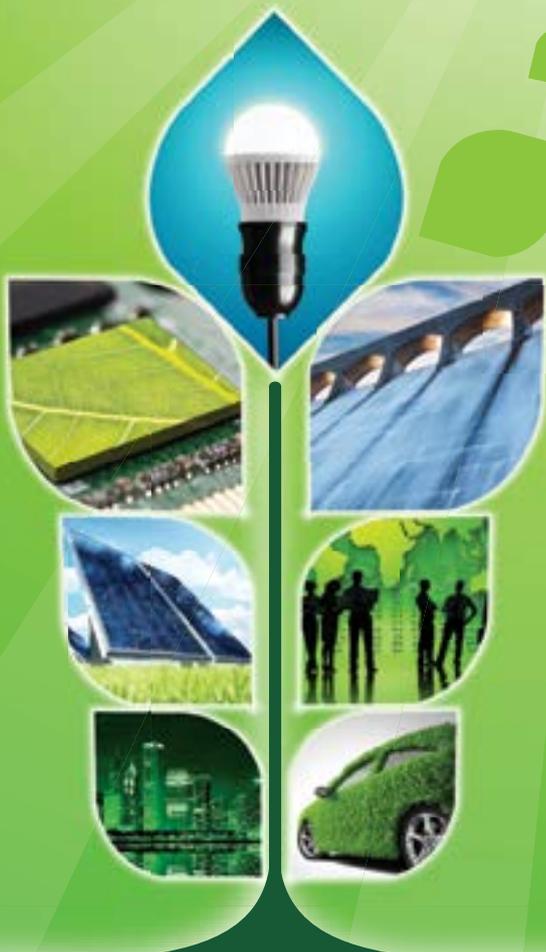


» Dr. Ainie Kuntom (MPOB) briefed the participants on MSPO certification scheme.



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BIOGAS INDUSTRY TO FUEL MALAYSIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH

BIOGAS TARGETED TO CONTRIBUTE RM20.2 BILLION TO MALAYSIA'S BIOECONOMY BY 2020.



VIPs at the Biogas Asia Pacific Forum 2015.

Kuala Lumpur, Tuesday, 28 April 2015 – Malaysian Biotechnology Corporation (BiotechCorp) once again joined local and international giants in the Biogas Asia Pacific Forum 2015 to explore further strategies to develop and strengthen the biogas industry in Malaysia and the Asia Pacific region. Back for the 4th year, the forum is Asia's premier networking event for the business of biogas and was held from 28-29 April 2015 at Sunway Pyramid Convention Centre, Petaling Jaya, Selangor

The opening ceremony saw YB Datuk Dr Ewon Ebin, the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) delivering his speech on the potential of biogas production in Malaysia, before officially launching the forum. "The biogas production and processing has set a high expectation for Malaysia to become the biogas hub in Asia and as the region's lead biogas exporter to the global market," he said. "In fact, the total potential market for the biogas industry in Malaysia is estimated to be RM 8.3 billion (USD 2.3 billion) by the year 2022, while the global biogas market is expected to reach RM120.1 billion (USD 33 billion by the year 2022."

Themed "Commercial Integration of the Biogas Value Chain in Asia – Opportunities and Challenges for All," the 2-day conference focused on the updates and challenges of the commercialization of biogas, such as feedstock

Management, anaerobic, digestion and biogas upgrading and attracted leading organizations including SIRIM, FELDA, Emirates Gas and Indonesia Oil Palm Research & Institute. Highlights of the forum topics include "Malaysia as the Biogas Hub of Asia – Plugging All Stakeholders into the Biogas Roadmap", "Building an Integrated Biogas Value Chain from Feedstock to Biogas Offtaker" and "Palm Oil Taking the Lead for Biogas Value Chain Creation in South East Asia."

The event promotes partnerships and sharing of knowledge to drive innovation, growth and commercialization in the biogas sector, with the aim to position Malaysia as a biogas hub in the foreseeable future. With biotechnology action as the game changer and value creator for the biogas industry, BiotechCorp is currently encouraging the commercial development of biogas in Malaysia through several initiatives and flagship projects, including those under the Bioeconomy Transformation Program (BTP)

"As the nation moves towards adopting renewable energy and environmental sustainability, biogas will play a crucial role in driving Malaysia's Bioeconomy agenda forward, subsequently realizing our aspirations in becoming a sustainable and developed nation," said BiotechCorp's

Chief Executive Officer, Dato' Dr. Nazlee Kamal. "With bioeconomy providing value addition to the biogas industry, it is expected that biogas will contribute RM20.2 billion to Malaysia's bioeconomy by 2020."

Dato' Nazlee added that the Biogas Asia Pacific Forum 2015 acts as the perfect avenue to intensify Malaysia's global visibility within the biogas sector, while raising awareness on its commercial opportunities to encourage participation of industry players and entrepreneurs in the bio-based industry.

According to the Project Director and BiotechCorp's Senior Vice President of BioIndustrial En. Zainal Azman Abu Kasim, this year's Biogas Pacific Forum drew around 400 participants, with a majority representing the palm oil mills sector. The event also attracted government agencies and

ministries to increase coordination and cooperation between Asia Pacific's various policies and programs to accelerate the biogas sector in the right direction.

The event also saw 4 exchanges of documents related to the development of biogas initiatives in Malaysia, as witnessed by Datuk Ewon Ebin, YB. Datuk Bung Mokhtar Radin, Member of Parliament, Kinabatangan and Chairman of Felcra Berhad, and Dato' Dr. Ali Askar, Chief Operating officer of sustainable Energy Development Authority Malaysia (SEDA). The exchanges were made between Gas Malaysia Berhad and Sime Darby Offshore Engineering Sdn Bhd; Megagreen Energy Sdn Bhd and Technology Nasional Berhad.; Megagreen Energy Sdn Bhd and Felcra Berhad; as well as Green & Smart Sdn Bhd with Felda Global Ventures Holding Berhad.



- 1 Joint Venture Signing Ceremony Between Gas Malaysia Berhad & Sime Darby Offshore Engineering Sdn Bhd.
- 2 Networking between Y.B. Datuk Dr. Ewon Ebin, Minister, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) And the exhibitor.
- 3 Opening Speech By Y.B. Datuk Dr. Ewon Ebin, Minister, Ministry Of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI).
- 4 Y.B. Datuk Dr. Ewon Ebin, Minister, Ministry Of Science, Technology And Innovation (MOSTI) visiting The Exhibition Booth.

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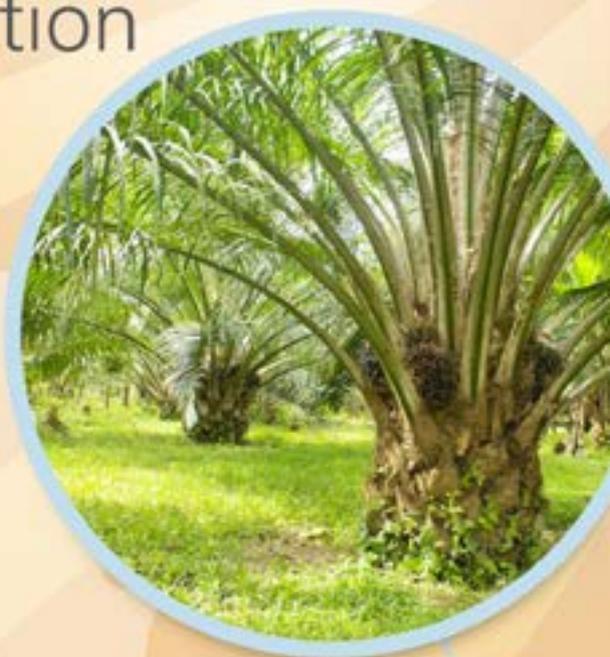


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venue: Dewan Sri Perdana, Lahad Datu Sabah

web: www.asiapalmoil.com

email: my@asiafireworks.com



PALMEX Thailand 2015

date: 20th-21st August 2015

venue: CO-OP Exhibition Centre, Surat Thani, Thailand

web: www.thaipalmoil.com

email: thai@asiafireworks.com



Palm Oil Sarawak 2015

date: 4th-5th September 2015

venue: Miri Indoor Stadium, Sarawak, Malaysia

web: www.palmoilsarawak.com

email: my@asiafireworks.com



PALMEX Indonesia 2015

date: 3rd - 5th November 2015

venue: Santika Premiere Dyandra, Hotel & Convention, Medan Indonesia

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- Felda's perspective –Strengthening in Malaysia and expanding investments in oil palm plantations & projects abroad

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