



## Sustainable Production of Palm Oil in India

(\*Videh Tanaya)

M.Sc. Research Scholar (Dept. of Agricultural Economics), College of Post Graduate Studies in Agricultural Science, CAU(I), Umiam, Meghalaya, 793103

\*Corresponding Author's email: [videhtanaya1123@gmail.com](mailto:videhtanaya1123@gmail.com)

### Abstract

Palm Oil cultivation has been a game changer for millions of smallholders farmers and local economies around the world. With its high yields and versatility, oil palm has become a vital crop for food biofuels, and other products. However its rapid expansion has also raised concerns about deforestation, habitat destruction, and social injustices. India fulfill their demand through promoting sustainable practices.

**Key words:** Palm oil ;Sustainable,Production,India

### Introduction

India is the world's second largest consumer of palm oil, accounting for over more than 20% global demand, and world's first largest importer too, more than half of consumption rely on imports, with domestic production meeting only 10% of the demand. As per demand for palm oil increases, country need to increase their domestic production by clearing substantial tracts of tropical forests to make favorable environment for palm oil cultivation. But as per estimated 28% of forest loss in Indonesia and Malaysia between 2005 and 2010, was attributed to large-scale palm oil production. Expansion of palm oil to meet demand can lead to numerous environmental well as social impacts. Clearing large expansion of forests causes forest fragmentation, and endangered species habitat. But to address this issues by only way to promote sustainable palm oil production.

### What is sustainable palm oil?

Sustainably produced and responsible sourced palm oil promotes environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable practices in palm oil industry, in accordance with globally recognized responsible production standards and country specific legal compliances in order to address this above mentioned environmental and social issues.

### Key initiatives

1. **National mission on edible oils-oil palm (NMEO-OP):** launched in 2021, this mission aims to increase India's self-sufficiency through oil palm production by promoting sustainable practices, and improve livelihood of smallholder farmers.
2. **Roundtable on Sustainable palm oil (RSPO) certification :-** This scheme too promote sustainable oil palm cultivation by providing global certification scheme. Indian companies too interesting in adopting these RSPO certification scheme to ensure sustainable practices.
3. **Sustainable Palm Oil Coalition (SPOC):-** it is an industry led initiative that aims to promote sustainable production and consumption both in India. Members include major palm oil producers, processors and consumer good companies,

### Major actions to be taken to achieve these goals

- **Soil health management:-** to maintain soil health there is need to implementation soil conservation measures like little tilling, contour ploughing, terracing and cover cropping are important factors to improve soil health .
  - Minimum tillage operation
  - Maximum soil coverage with green vegetation
  - of maximum biodiversity
  - Maximize the presence of living root
- **Water management:-** oil palm requires less water (1875litres)to produce 1kg product which is very less in comparison of other crops such as.,rice,sugarcane,cotton,soya olive etc. optimized water use through such as .,sprinkler irrigation, drip irrigation etc. And use of water conservation practices such as mulching however it helps to reduce evaporation and weed growth.
- **Crop management:-** implementation of integrated pest and disease management (IPM& IDM) techniques to minimize the use of synthetic pesticide and encourage the us of biological control practices like parasitoids and microbial agents for effective management of pest problems are other factors of sustainability.

### Issues and challenges in promoting sustainable palm oil

The Indian market is distinctly different from western, brand oriented markets with relatively more 'aware' and 'better informed' consumer bases.it also considered vastly different from western market which has considerable more government control an intervention. Furthermore, in China, the motivational focus for companies appears to have been that they have some products that they export. As of May 2018, China's Palm oil imports are expected to go down as the country instead is looking to boost its purchases of soyabean oil, giving its ample supplies of domestically produced soyabean oil.

Some of the recent reports including the Palm Lines produced by WWF-India in 2017, set out a vision for India, as the world's largest palm oil market. This is in keeping with a view to use India's consistently growing demand and its position as a 'game changer' to transform the market demanding production, both domestically as well as in producer countries, to become more sustainable. Research as well as stakeholder interactions held during the course of this project, point towards the critical need for assimilation of multiple voices as well as the coming together and collective action from multiple stakeholders including government agencies, multinational and domestic companies, civil society, standards organisations, academia, experts and consumers

### Conclusion

By adopting sustainable practices and address the challenges facing the industry, India can become a leader in sustainable palm oil production, ensuring a triple bottom line of economic, social ,and environmental sustainability. This will not only benefit the industry but also contribute to India's food security, rural development ,and environmental conservation.

### References

1. Mailappa, A.S., Mathur, R.K., Shakywar, R.C., Singh, B., Singh, S., Ajaykumara, K.M., Hazarika, B.N., & Singh, S.B. (2023). Evaluation of oil palm cross combinations under North East Indian condition. *Journal of Oilseeds Research*, DOI:<https://doi.org/10.56739/4fn4mf22>.
2. Sati,V.P. (2023). Economic viability and prospects of oil palm cultivation in Mizoram,India. *Tropical Agrobiodiversity*, 4(2):62-67, DOI:<http://doi.org/1o.26480/trab.02.2023.62.67>.

3. Solmonraju, K., Paul, N., & Satish Kumar, C. (2021). An economic analysis of oil palm cultivation in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. *The Andhra Agricultural journal*, 64(4): 934-940,2017
4. Sipayung, A. (2022). Study in East Borneo Province . *MICoMS2022*,E-ISSN:2693-2356.
5. Rival, A. (ed.) Achieving sustainable cultivation of oil palm, vol 2:Cambridge, UK, 2018 (ISBN:9781 78876 108 8; www.bdspublishing.com)
6. Mishra, A., & Tapsal, P. (2017). Envisioning a sustainable future for the Indian oil palm industry. *WWF Report India*.
7. (NA) Developmental action plan for promoting oil palm in the North Eastern region of India. *North Eastern development finance corporation ltd*.
8. Asante, K.T. (2021). Political Economy of the oil palm value chain in Ghana. Working paper on *Agricultural policy research in Africa*.
9. Kalidas, P. (n.d.) Prospects and problem for oil palm cultivation in North Eastern Region.