

Breakout session 5: Reporting on palm oil – a dialogue between the media and stakeholders



**SCALING UP THE SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL
VALUE CHAIN THROUGH COLLECTIVE ACTION**



An introduction to China Dialogue

Dr Sam Geall

Chief executive officer

Agenda

- An introduction to China Dialogue
- An overview of China Dialogue's palm oil reporting project
- Sharing perspectives: Reporting on palm oil in the field
- Panel: Building dialogue for better stories
- Q&A session

Introducing China Dialogue Trust

中外对话
China Dialogue

COAL
China's power system needs to modernise
The Sichuan drought shows the need to better balance supply and demand, not simply build new coal power plants
Xia Zhiqian

Latest news

Trending

- 1 What is COP27? This year's crucial climate talks, explained
- 2 G20 still paying billions in fossil fuel subsidies
- 2 Global biodiversity 'on the edge'

中外对话 海洋
China Dialogue Ocean

EXPLAINER
Explainer: Why CITES matters for marine species
This month, the world's governments will convene in Panama for a major meeting on wildlife trade. We unpack the big points for marine species.
Aron White

Latest news

Trending

- 1 Explainer: What is the blue economy?
- 2 What's killing South Africa's seals?
- 3 UN Ocean Conference ends with call for greater action to tackle crisis
- 4 WTO reaches historic agreement to end harmful fisheries subsidies

The Third Pole

Understanding water, climate and nature in Asia

CLIMATE ACTION
Opinion: Melting glaciers are a global problem – responsibility must be shared globally
The biggest historical carbon emitters should take more responsibility for preserving the world's ice fields, says cryosphere expert Krivam Jackson
William Jackson

Latest news

Top stories

- 1 How 'win-win' management could tackle India's air pollution crisis
- 2 COP27: UN climate summit opens with little hope of success
- 3 Nepal's 'climate loan' triggers dispute over fairness and definitions

Diálogo Chino

China, Latin America & the environment

FEATURED
La promesa y los peligros de la minería marina en la Amazonía Azul
Los fondos marinos ricos en minerales de la costa brasileña despertarán un gran interés, pero la extracción no regulada tendrá impactos irreversibles
Karin Damase

Latest

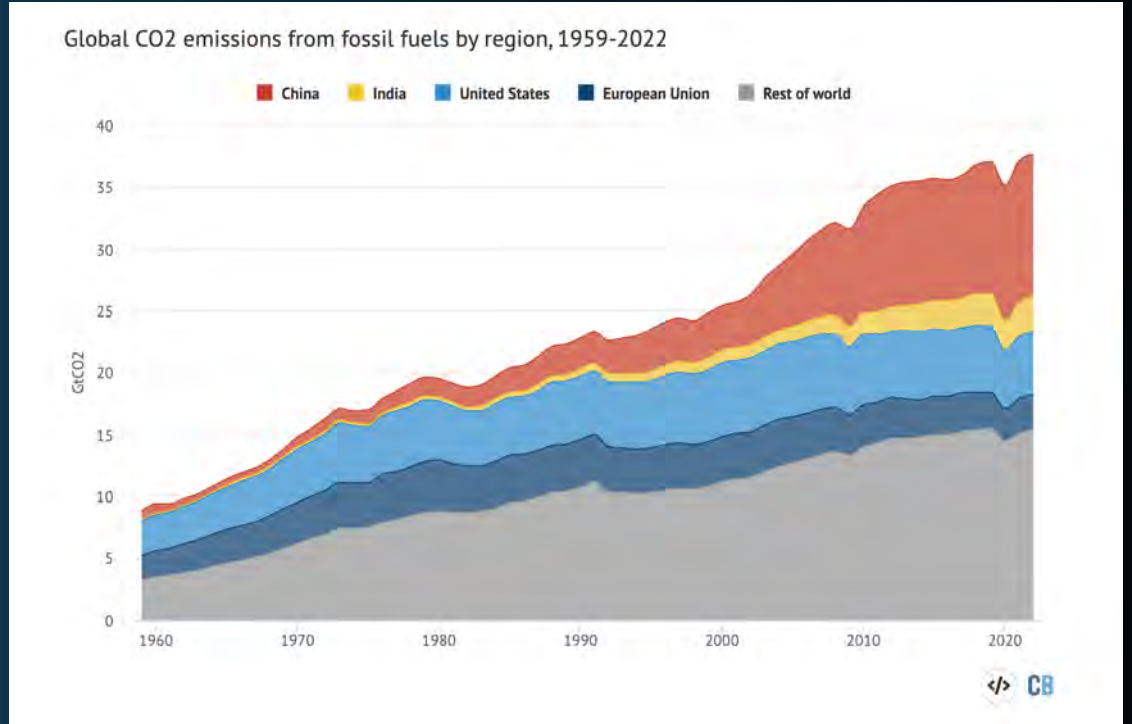
Ecuador
Las 'mafias' de la minería ilegal de oro amenazan al río Napo en Ecuador
La minería está dañando una de las zonas más biodiversas de la Amazonia, con el río a merced de las operaciones no reguladas y sector ilegal.
Alan Pachano

Sobre

Diálogo Chino es la única plataforma periodística dedicada a comprender la relación entre China y América Latina y sus desafíos para el desarrollo sostenible
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China's changing footprint



Shrinking space, rising distrust



西方国家集体放弃碳中和

2022-8-25 11:21 来源: CATALONIA

德国下议院通过法律草案, 取消其中涉及的“在2035年之前能源行业实现碳中和”的气候目标。

欧洲议会通过投票决议, 通过了在具体条件下天然气被归类为可持续能源。

英国和法国计划推迟关闭, 且重新启动燃煤发电厂。美国最高法院: 限制美国环保署(EPA)利用《清洁空气法案》来监管发电厂温室气体排放的权力。

丹麦宣布放弃2025碳中和目标 (链接)。

New conversations about China in the world


 ENERGY

Green panda bond could spur Chinese investment towards Africa's energy transition

The 8th Forum on China-Africa Cooperation called for a panda bond, but it's unclear if gas projects would be eligible for the green version

EN 中文



 CLIMATE


Scaling up renewable energy investment in Africa

Panellists at a London Climate Action Week event, organised by China Dialogue and E3G, discuss the challenges and opportunities for African governments, China and the EU in scaling up renewable energy in Africa

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LCAW | Scaling up renewable energy investment in Africa

Share



An overview of China Dialogue's palm oil reporting project

Jessica Aldred

Special projects editor

chinadialogue.net/palm-oil

Palm Oil

This China Dialogue project will examine whether the major palm oil markets can grow without increasing emissions and harming biodiversity



ENERGY TRANSITION
The place of biofuels as China eyes carbon neutrality



CHEMICALS
Palm oil derivatives: are sustainability promises lost in the supply chain?



PALM OIL
Palm oil in India: Rapid growth and competing health claims



PALM OIL
Hidden in plain sight



DEFORESTATION
China's new green finance guidelines have a deforestation blind spot



PALM OIL
Unleaver sustainable sourcing director: 'First-mile data is critical'



PALM OIL
Squeaky clean



FOOD SECURITY
Opinion: Investing in sustainable palm oil is key to mitigating future crises



Charlie Lanita has resisted the expansion of SAC's plantation and retained control over his own oil palms (Image: Saibu Bah / China Dialogue)



Photo stories



Interactive resources



Graphics



Reports



Company profiles

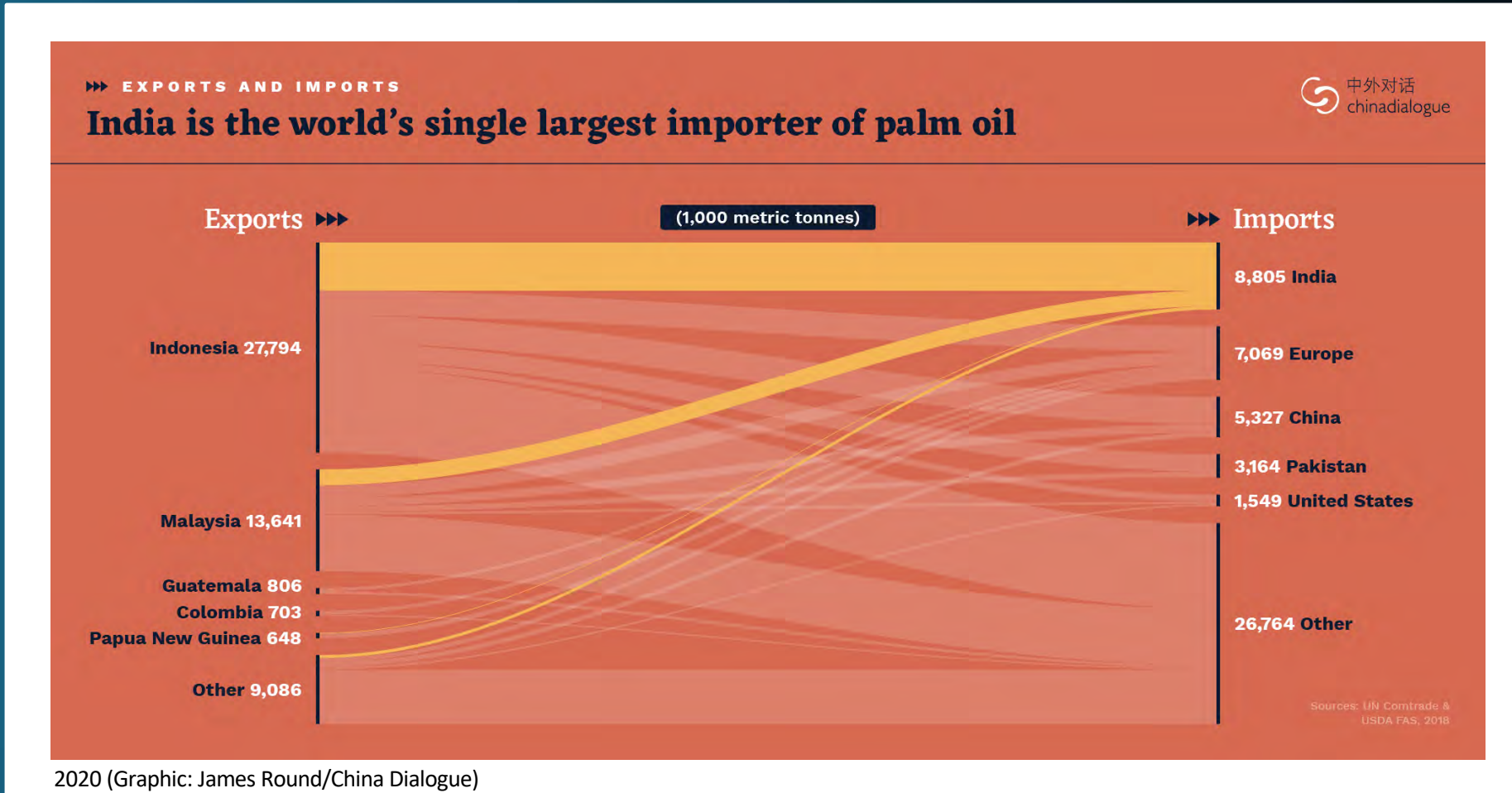


Podcasts



Videos

India and China focus



Palm oil stories



Early debates



The anatomy of an oil palm

Palm oil is used in thousands of everyday products around the world, but what do we know of the palm that produces it?



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(Image: Leni Kauffman/China Dialogue)

Sophie Bauer, Leni Kauffman
June 30, 2020



Palm oil: The pros and cons of a controversial commodity

Answers to key questions about a commodity that, for better or for worse, is here to stay



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Oil palm fruit (Source: Alamy)

Mike Shanahan
November 4, 2019



A boycott is not the answer to palm oil's environmental problems


Commitments to go 'palm-oil free' may seem positive, but switching to less efficient vegetable oils may drive greater deforestation and biodiversity loss



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A Felcia workers in Kuala Lumpur, protesting the EU's decision to only import sustainable palm oil after 2020. (Image: Alamy)

 Michael Guindon
January 17, 2020

Diving deeper

Palm oil derivatives: are sustainability promises lost in the supply chain?

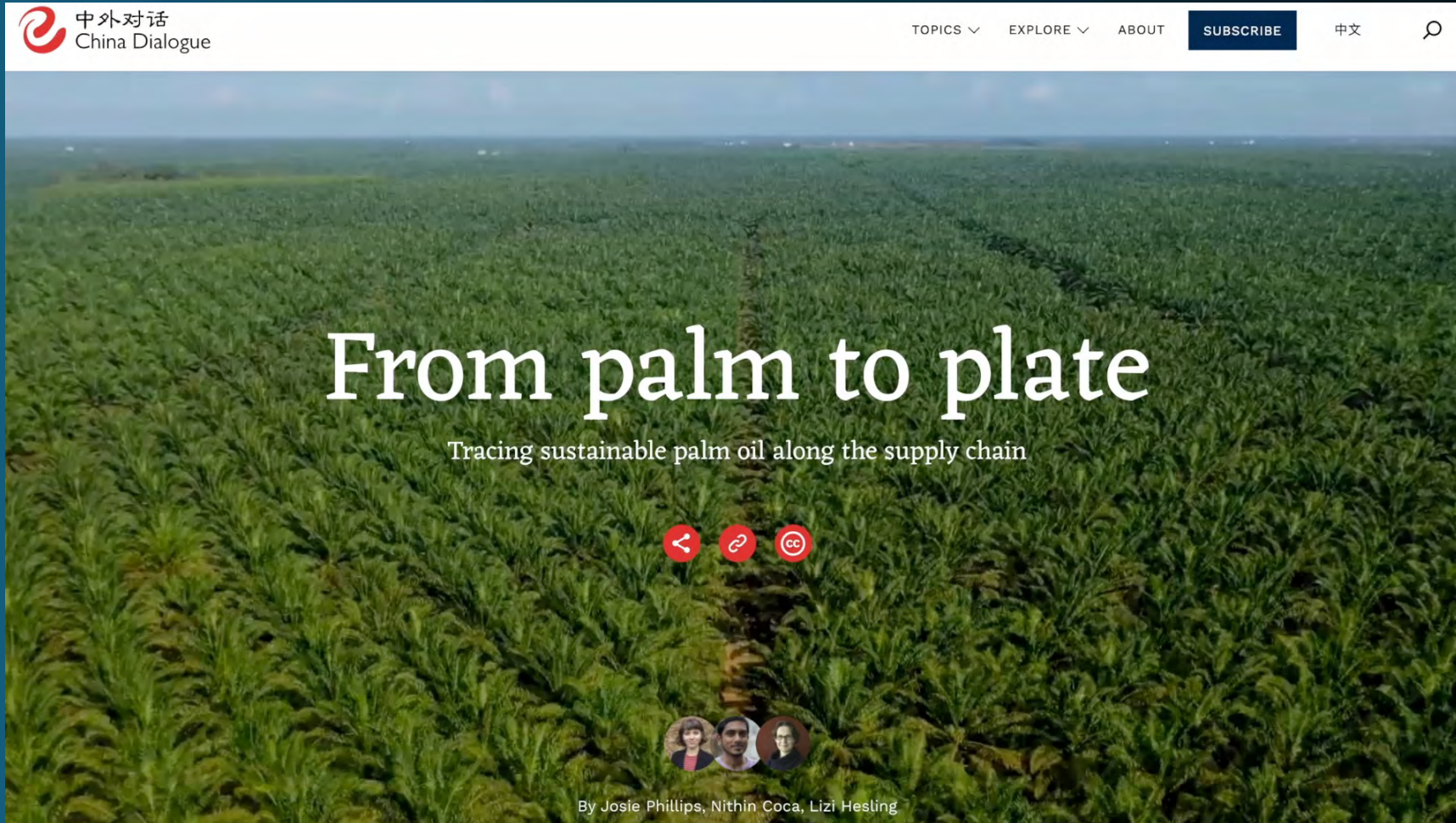
As palm oil for biofuel rises in Southeast Asia, tropical ecosystems shrink

Can regenerative agriculture transform palm oil?

Who gets to define sustainable palm oil?

Breaking down palm oil

Pioneering content



The screenshot shows a webpage with a white header. On the left is the logo for 'China Dialogue' (中外对话). On the right are navigation links: 'TOPICS', 'EXPLORE', 'ABOUT', a 'SUBSCRIBE' button, and '中文'. A search icon is also present. The main content area features a large aerial photograph of a palm oil plantation. Overlaid on the image is the title 'From palm to plate' in a large white serif font, followed by the subtitle 'Tracing sustainable palm oil along the supply chain' in a smaller white sans-serif font. Below the subtitle are three red circular icons: a share icon, a link icon, and a Creative Commons icon. At the bottom of the image are three circular profile pictures of the authors. Below the photos, the text 'By Josie Phillips, Nithin Coca, Lizi Hesling' is displayed in a small white font.

中外对话
China Dialogue

TOPICS ▾ EXPLORE ▾ ABOUT SUBSCRIBE 中文 🔍

From palm to plate

Tracing sustainable palm oil along the supply chain

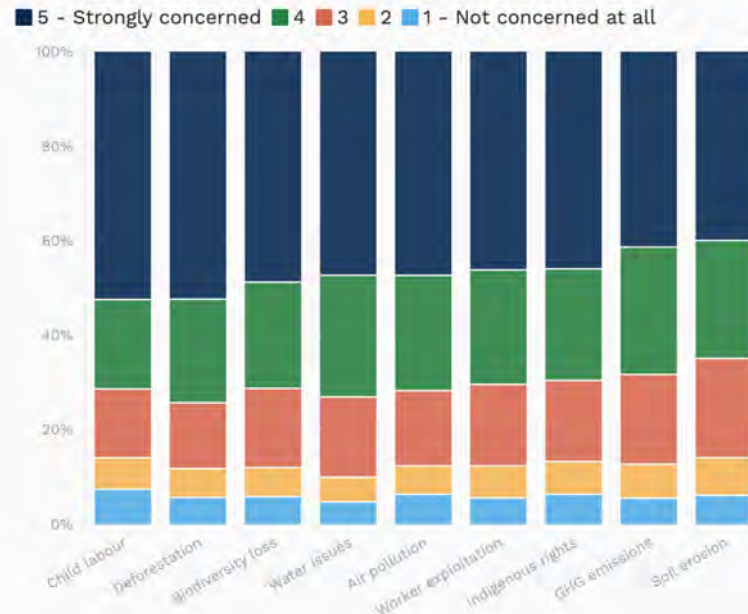
By Josie Phillips, Nithin Coca, Lizi Hesling

India consumer survey

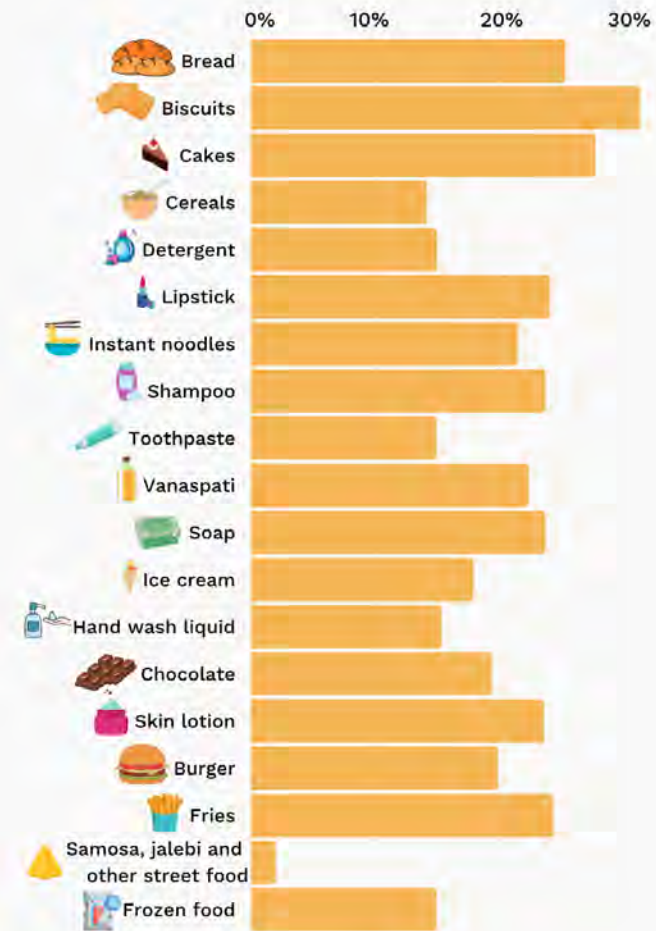
What do young people in India think of palm oil?

Many young people have never heard of palm oil, but care deeply about environmental damage and are willing to pay more for sustainable produce, according to our survey

Strength of concern about environmental and social issues



What percentage of respondents knew these products contain palm oil?



Conducted by the NGO Human Circle
with support from the RSPO and India Youth for Sustainability

Industry perspectives



Kamal Prakash Seth

Kamal Prakash Seth is India Representative of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil.



Fang Lifeng

Fang Lifeng is the Head of China at the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). Prior to joining RSPO, he was the Forest Program Manager at CDP China, leading its sustainable palm oil project in addressing ESG disclosure, sustainable supply chain and green finance. He holds an MA degree in agronomy from the Chinese Academy of Agriculture Sciences.



Guntur Prabowo

Guntur Prabowo is Indonesia Smallholder Programme Manager for the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)

‘We’re at a critical juncture’: RSPO’s Anne Rosenbarger on the push for sustainable palm oil

Co-chair of global body that certifies palm oil as sustainable, on the challenges facing the industry and why India and China are key

Unilever sustainable sourcing director: ‘First-mile data is critical’

Unilever’s Martin Huxtable tells China Dialogue about the company’s efforts to illuminate palm oil’s origins, rooted in its bold commitment to cut deforestation by next year

Website readership

Most popular

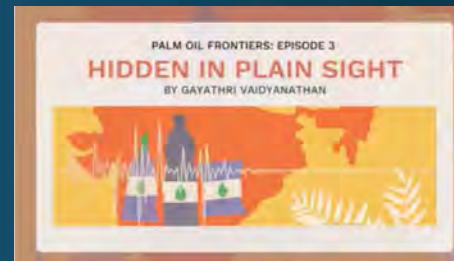
Will China produce its own palm oil?

Palm oil: The pros and cons of a controversial commodity

India's curbs on Malaysian palm oil set to shake up sector

Oil palm pioneers doubt crop will take off in Himalayan foothills

Podcast series



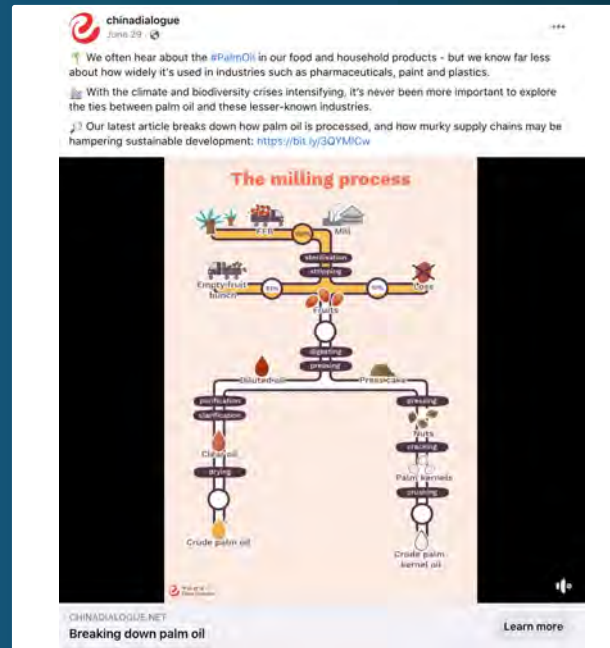
From palm to plate



New readership

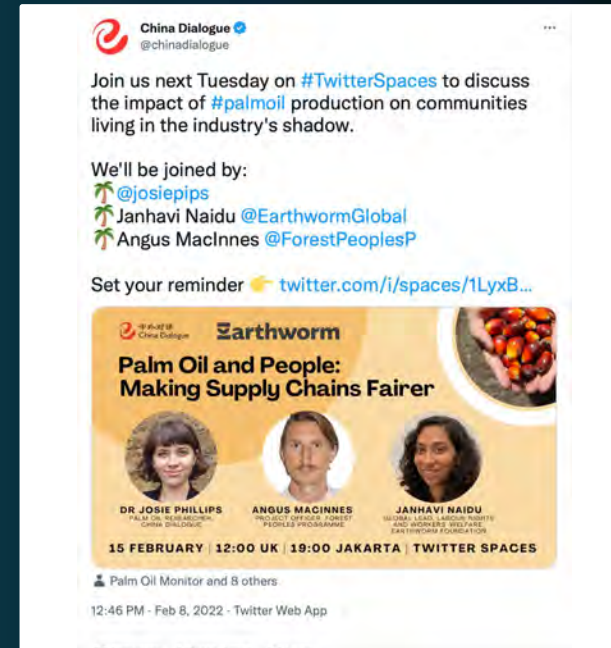


Social media



Best-performing posts

Breaking down palm oil
 Palm oil and health claims in India
 Palm oil podcast – episode one



Top-performing Tweets

Supply chain map
 Twitter Space – palm oil and people
 Europe wants to be 'forest-positive'

Sharing perspectives: Reporting on palm oil from China

Jiang Yifan

Former senior editor

Sharing perspectives: Reporting on palm oil in the field



Lou Del Bello



Alejandra Cuéllar



Abdul Samba Brima

Palm oil reporting in India

Lou Del Bello

Freelance journalist;

Former India palm oil commissioning editor

China Dialogue

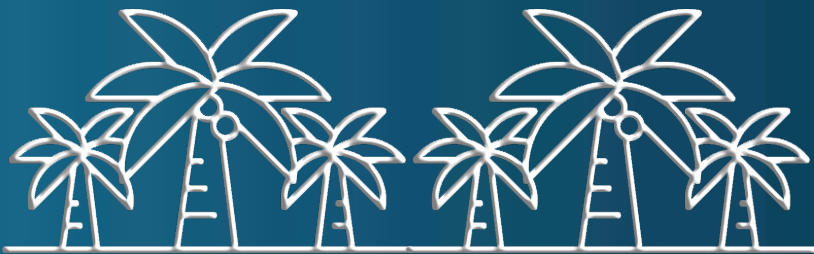
Palm oil in India

India consumes around

8.5 million tonnes

of palm oil per year

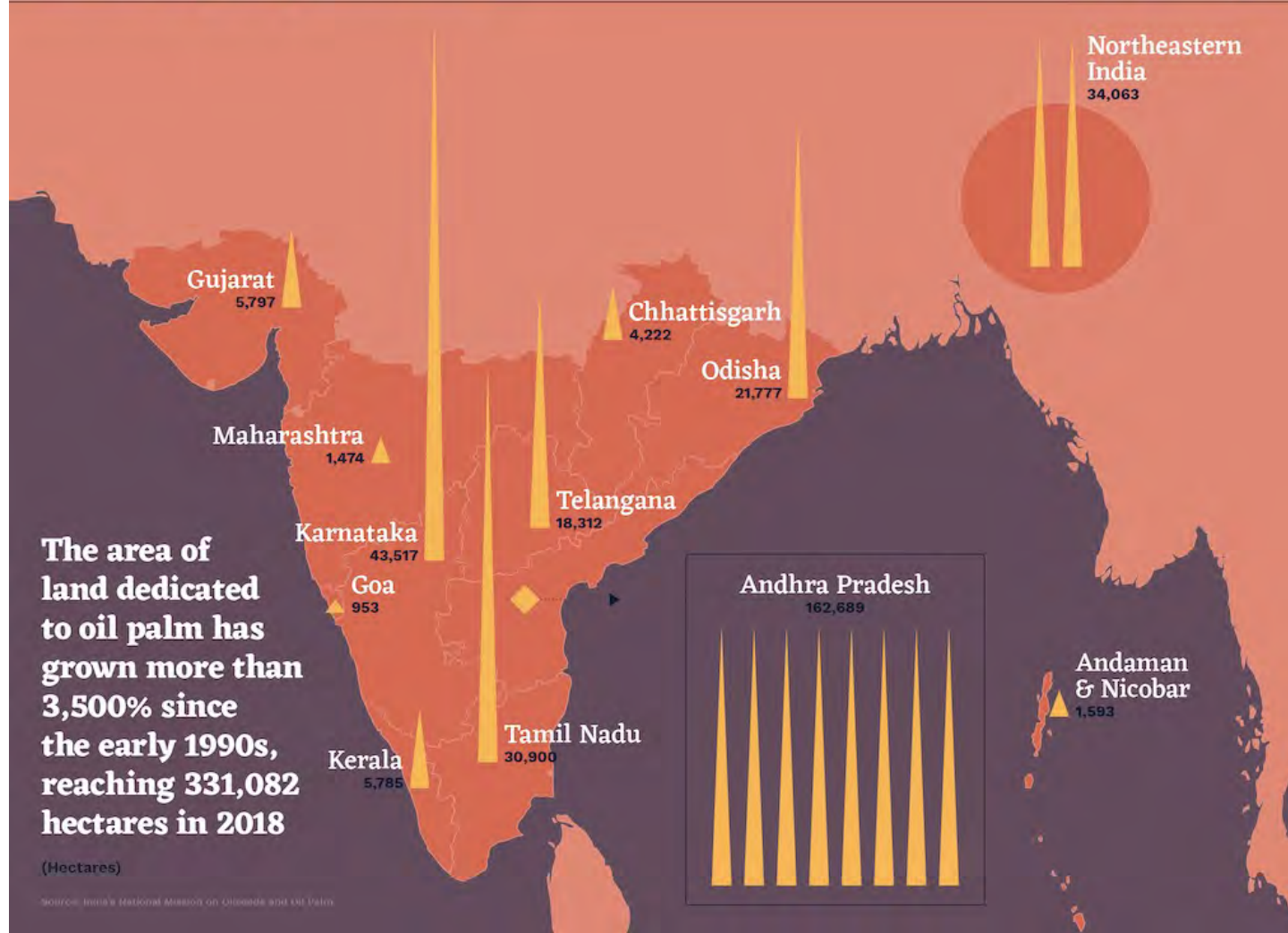
(USDA)



»» A DOMESTIC PRODUCTION BOOM

India's oil palm plantations

中外对话
chinadialogue



2020 (Graphic: James Round/China Dialogue)

Commissioning themes



Oil palm in Andhra Pradesh: prosperity at what cost?

Many farmers who have switched to oil palms are making more money, but the water table beneath them is falling dangerously

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Nageswara Rao spreads fertilizer while irrigating his oil palms in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh (Image: Kevin Samuel / China Dialogue)

Jency Samuel
June 28, 2021



Palm oil in India: Rapid growth and competing health claims

As palm oil's presence in Indian diets has grown, so has conflicting information over its health effects compared to other vegetable oils. Seema Prasad investigates

HI EN



भारत में पाम ऑयल: तेज़ी से बढ़ता उत्पादन और स्वास्थ्य दावों की भरमार

भारतीय आहार में पाम ऑयल यानी ताइ के तेल की उपस्थिति बढ़ी है, इसलिए अन्य वनस्पति तेलों की तुलना में इसके स्वास्थ्य प्रभावों पर अलग-अलग तरह की जानकारी उपलब्ध है। सीमा प्रसाद की जांच:

HI EN



Palm oil journalism in India

THE HINDU

What would the proposed large-scale cultivation of oil palm mean to India's ecology and economy?

Palm oil is cheap, versatile and mostly imported. Now, the government has an ambitious plan for the large-scale production of this crop

September 16, 2021 04:05 pm | Updated September 19, 2021 05:53 pm IST

OMAIR AHMAD



India can play critical role in promoting sustainable palm oil: Experts

Brand Stories

Published on Feb 25, 2022 09:56 AM IST

India, the world's leading vegetable oil buyer, had imported 83.21 lakh tons palm oil in 2020-2021 (Nov-Oct) and the share of palm oil is more than 60 per cent of the country's total vegetable oil imports

 **REUTERS**

1 minute read · November 15, 2022 3:18 PM GMT · Last Updated 20 hours ago

India raises base import price of palm oil, gold

Reuters



LONG READS

India's Quest For Self-sufficiency In Edible Oils

With edible oil imports costing ₹80,000 crore in 2021, and demand rising rapidly, India makes a serious bid to arrest price shocks. Here's how...

By **JOE MATHEW**, Aug 8, 2022 | 9 min read

Palm oil reporting in Central America

Alejandra Cuéllar

Mexico Central American editor

Diálogo Chino

Palm oil in Latin America



Image: Florian Kopp / Alamy



Social and environmental impacts

GUATEMALA

San Juan la Noria: la comunidad rodeada por la palma de aceite

El pueblo de Guatemala está rodeado de plantaciones de palma aceitera, pero los residentes no reciben ninguno de los beneficios.

Marvin del Cid, Sonny Figueroa Julio 8, 2021

Share



Does Colombia hold the answer to sustainable palm oil?

Study shows that planting on former cattle pasture reduces controversial crop's carbon footprint, but the model may not be easy to replicate elsewhere

EN 中文



Oil palm workers dig down 30cm to analyse the historical carbon content of soil at Lusa Lanza, Colombia (Image: Thomas Guillaume)

David Adam
December 10, 2019

Could the world have a large new source of sustainable palm oil? Yes and no, according to a study that says planting the controversial crop on pasture land is the way to go.

In the field



Marvin del Cid and Sonny Figueroa, freelance journalists in Central America (Image: Naciones Unidas Derechos Humanos Oficina del Alto Comisionado)

Future plans



A small producer from San Martin, Peru carries oil palm harvest
(Image: Juan Carlos Huayllapuma/ Flickr CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)



A small producer from San Martin, Peru
(Image: Juan Carlos Huayllapuma/ Flickr CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

Palm oil reporting in Sierra Leone

Abdul Samba Brima

West Africa regional editor



Image: Saidu Bah / China Dialogue



Image: Nkansahrexford / Wikimedia Commons, CC BY SA



Image: Ashley Pomeroy / Wikimedia Commons, CC BY SA

Palm oil is native to West Africa

Red gold: a history of palm oil in West Africa

Palm oil is one of the 21st century's most contentious agricultural commodities, but its relationship with humans goes back thousands of years. Pauline von Hellermann looks into the humble origins of this now controversial cash crop.



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Image © Jonathan Adagogo Green / The Trustees of the British Museum, CC BY NC SA

Palm oil is important to me personally – but also to communities



Sierra Leone's conflict palm oil certified as sustainable

Some community members accuse Socfin of land-grabbing and pollution. We visited the company's plantation in Malen to find out what's happening beneath the palm fronds.

Abdul Brima
July 8, 2022

Malen Chiefdom sits on a dusty highway, 90 minutes' drive from the district capital of Pujehun in southern Sierra Leone. The past decade has seen the landscape here transformed. Gone are the bushlands and subsistence farms more typical of this region. In their stead are thousands of hectares of oil palms.

Equally transformed is the peace and tranquility of this far-flung corner of West Africa, rocked by violence and division since the arrival of the oil palms. The conflict over land that disaffected locals say was taken from them without their consent or proper compensation continues to this day. Meanwhile, the plantation company at the heart of it all has just been awarded the coveted seal of approval by the world's leading sustainable palm oil body, the RSPO.

It all started in 2011, when the Socfin Agricultural Company (SAC) entered into a 50-year land lease agreement with the government of Sierra Leone and Malen's local authority, the Chiefdom Council. SAC is a subsidiary of the Socfin Group, an agro-industrial multinational headquartered in Luxembourg. The original agreement leased 16,248 acres (6,576 hectares) to the company, but additional agreements over subsequent years have added substantially to that number. On paper, SAC's concession currently covers 18,473 hectares (ha), nearly 70% of the chiefdom's total area of 27,000 ha. Of this, 12,349 ha is now planted with oil palm, making it the largest active oil palm plantation in the country, according to data from non-profit GRAIN.



The mothers of Malen

Episode one of our new podcast series, Palm Oil Frontiers visits Malen Chiefdom in Sierra Leone

Palm oil frontiers, episode 1:



From Unscope Podcasts

The mothers of Malen

Jul 15, 2022



Abdul Brima
July 15, 2022

The oil palm is native to West Africa, where it continues to play a vital role in food security and local economies. Palm oil is especially important for women in the region, many of whom earn a much-needed boost to their incomes by selling oil produced from their own fruit – money they use to raise their children. But in Malen Chiefdom in the southern part of Sierra Leone, the arrival of an industrial oil palm plantation has threatened all this. What impact is the plantation having on women in the area? And what needs to happen to improve the situation?

For more on what's happening in Malen Chiefdom, read [this article](#).

Land rights: multinationals and investment

“What is happening is what we call corporate capture. The multinational companies are controlling the government, instead of the government controlling them.”

— Alphonso Gbanie, executive secretary,
Human Rights Defenders Network, Sierra Leone

Land rights have not been favourable to women



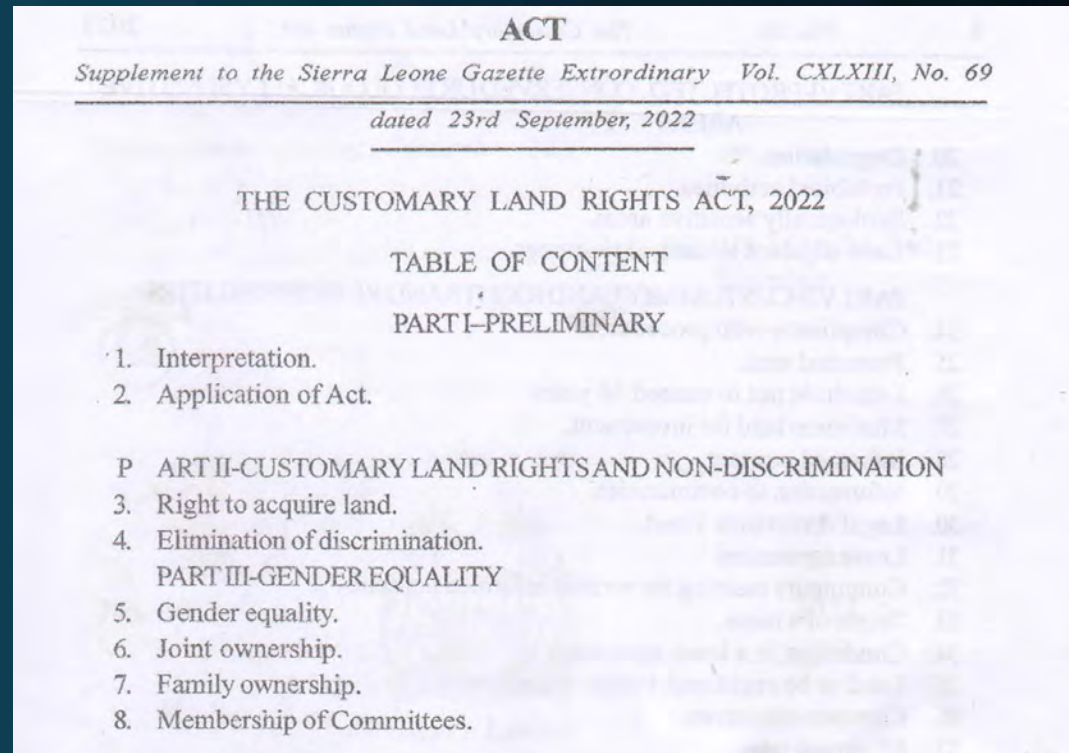
Image: WoNARPI

New land rights laws

The land commission act, 2022



The customary land rights act, 2022



Reporting on palm oil in Sierra Leone



Image: Abdul Samba Brima/ China Dialogue

“I say thanks to God for palm oil. Without it, we would not have come this far.”

— Adama Sewa

Panel: Building dialogue for better stories



Chair:
Dr Josie Phillips
Researcher, China Dialogue



Leena Ghosh

RSPO



Ravin Trapshah

Wilmar International



Timer Manurung

Auriga Nusantara/
Trase



Ristika Putri

Lingkar Temu
Kabupaten Lestari

Q&A session

Thank you