



E-NEWSLETTER

SARAWAK OIL PALM PLANTATION OWNERS ASSOCIATION



Chief Executive Officer's Message



Dear SOPPOA Members,

We had bid farewell to 2016 and it's time to say hello to the year 2017. It marks new beginnings, fresh starts and new chapters in our lives and in SOPPOA. In welcoming the New Year 2017, we wish everyone a joyous, peaceful and prosperous year.

Accomplishments and Projects undertaken in Year 2016

In year 2016, the Association had initiated and/or accomplished a number of activities, some of which are summarized below:

- SOPPOA continued to maintain good relationships, including regular dialogue as applicable, with the Chief Minister's Office, the relevant government ministries (federal MPIC and state MOARE), related governmental agencies (MPOB, MPOC and MPOCC), and other palm oil associations (MPOA, MEOA and EMPA).
- Successfully completed the MPOB-SOPPOA workshop held on 10 March 2016 to carry out collaborative research projects to address the issues related to poor fruit set, bunch failure, lower front desiccation, acid sulphate soil and various pests and diseases affecting the oil palm estates in Sarawak. The main objectives are to help SOPPOA member-companies to enhance their productivity and improve overall performance in plantation management in the Sarawak palm oil industry.

The intention of carrying out these MPOB-SOPPOA collaboration research studies is to enable research findings to be shared for the benefit of all SOPPOA members. Accordingly, regular meetings are held by MPOB-SOPPOA Research Committ Team to monitor and follow-up on these research projects for reporting purposes.

- In 2014, MPOB imposed a new license condition requiring all new mills and existing mills which apply for throughput expansion to have full biogas trapping or methane avoidance facilities. Following appeals from SOPPOA, MPIC (and MPOB) have now agreed to allow for an exemption of the compliance requirement for existing mills applying for throughput expansion until year 2020. However, no concession has been given for application of license for construction of new mills.
- In view of the acute shortage of labour, particularly in the plantation sector, SOPPOA had submitted a "Proposal for the Introduction of a Legalization and Rehiring of Illegal Foreign Workers Program" for the Sarawak Plantation Sector to Y.B. Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas, DCM1 and Minister of Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Economy, on 3 November 2016. Y.B. DCM1 is sympathetic to the predicaments faced by the oil palm industry, and has agreed to bring SOPPOA's proposal to the attention of the State Government for consideration. SOPPOA is still awaiting a positive response from the State Government.
- Our Association has continued to maintain good relationships with the news media (namely; STAR, NST, Borneo Post and Sarawak Tribune), which continued to support us and give coverage for SOPPOA's press releases when requested. In year 2016, SOPPOA issued a total of 12 press releases to promote and protect the interest of the palm oil industry in Sarawak. 3 press releases have been issued to-date in year 2017.
- SOPPOA represented by CEO participated at the various seminars organized by MPOB, MPOC and Sarawak State Government:
 - Presented a paper on "Labour Requirements, Remuneration System and Cost of Doing Oil Palm Business – Planter Perspective" organized by Sarawak Ministry of Land Development on 30 March 2016.
 - Acted as chairperson for session on "Adoption of Technologies and Work Systems" at PILIPS & Palm Mechanization Seminar 2016 organized by MPOB on 19-21 September 2016.
 - Presented a paper on "Challenges and Future Directions for Palm Oil Processing in Sarawak" at 2016 National Seminar on Palm Oil Milling, Refining, Environment and Quality (POMREQ) organized by MPOB on 29-30 November 2016.
- The Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC) has the intention to work towards "harmonizing" our tax structure with Indonesia to "level the playing field." The rationale is that Malaysia is unable to compete with Indonesia as the Indonesian export levy has made Indonesia's processed palm oil products more competitive vis-à-vis Malaysia. MPIC was considering to impose an export duty of 4% on CPO market price (currently at zero %) below the threshold price of RM2,250, based on PORAM's recommendation.

SOPPOA jointly with MEOA and EMPA submitted an appeal to MPIC requesting the Ministry to defer the implementation of the proposal. MPOA and NASH have also submitted a similar request to MPIC separately.

The proposed export duty has the effect of lowering domestic CPO price, and could therefore result in a decline in FFB price and reduced income for the oil palm growers which are without downstream refineries. This is because CPO export tax is usually passed down and borne by FFB producers. Imposing the export duty can negatively affect the planters in Sarawak which are already incurring high production costs. When the CPO market price is below RM2,250 per ton, the Government should not further burden the planters.

The planters' associations are of the view that there is currently no urgency to make the decision as this threshold price is quite far from the prevailing market conditions. And a harmonized structure must take into consideration the interest of all stakeholders and players that will be affected by this revised regulation. It must also be in harmony with the Indonesian structure in order to avoid any friction which may heighten the risk of future competitive restructuring.

Following the appeal, the decision was deferred by MPIC.

Plans for Year 2017

Going forward our plan is to concentrate our attention in the following areas:

- Continue to focus on promoting support for joint collaboration research projects from MPOB to improve plantation management, find solutions to control pests and diseases, and to enhance productivity in terms of better FFB yields and OER, and increasing the hectares per worker ratio.
- Promote innovations and more extensive mechanization of estate works to improve productivity and reduce reliance on foreign labour
- Promote improvement in plantation management through participation in seminars and sharing of Good Agriculture Practices to generate cost efficiency in plantation operations
- Request for continued support and funding for Public Affairs Program from MPIC/MPOC for improvement of public image of the Sarawak Palm Oil industry.
- Request for continued support and funding for "Orangutan and peat swamp Forest Conservation project" so that the State can be recognized as having a dedicated interest in environmental sustainability, biodiversity and wildlife preservation.
- To work with the State Government on the legalization and rehiring of illegal worker program, and to simplify the hiring process for foreign workers as well as to be flexible to allow the hiring of other nationals to work in the Sarawak palm oil sector.
- To work with the State Government in the preparation of a new model for leasing and development of NCR land by private investors, which is mutually acceptable to both NCR landowners and private investors, as well as the Sarawak Government in the development of the rural economy.
- To cooperate with the Workforce Development Unit in the Chief Minister's Department to develop and enhance the necessary skills required in the palm oil sector including palm oil mills.
- As no concession was given for the deferment of the installation of biogas trapping or methane avoidance facilities for application of license for construction of new mills in Sarawak, SOPPOA will make further appeal on this matter. SOPPOA is of the respectful view that the Federal Government ought to allow for the deferment of the license condition for new mills until the following conditions are in place:
 - A mechanization which allows for the sale of excess power to an off-taker or under a power purchase agreement with the Sarawak Energy Corporation based on an accepted Feed-in-Tariff arrangement similar to that implemented in Peninsular Malaysia. This is because without a power purchase agreement, there is no way Sarawak Millers can recoup the significant installation costs involved, keeping in mind that the Sarawak palm oil industry is comparatively younger compared to other regions in Malaysia.
 - There is accessibility/connectivity to power gridline for the relevant palm oil mill.
- Publish at least 6-12 news articles a year in the news media to enhance SOPPOA's image as well as to promote and protect the interest of the palm oil industry in Sarawak.
- Publish quarterly E-Newsletters for circulation to SOPPOA members to keep them informed on initiatives, programs and events organized by SOPPOA or other relevant partners and governmental agencies.

"Launch Of SOPPOA'S WEBSITE"

We have recently launched our official website, which members can access at:

<http://soppoa.org.my/>

Please take note that we have restricted access to the presentation materials under Research & Development, and Mills Committee. Please key in the following password (all in upper case) to gain access.

<http://soppoa.org.my/research-development>

Password: SOPPOA-R&D

<http://soppoa.org.my/events-activities/mills-committee>

Password: SOPPOA-MILLS

Members are welcomed to contribute feedback to SOPPOA so that we can continuously improve to serve our members better.

Thank you

Yours sincerely
Sylvester Fong

UPDATES OF SOPPOA ACTIVITIES

Proposal for the Introduction of a Legalization and Rehiring of Illegal Foreign Workers Programme for the Sarawak Plantation Sector.

SOPPOA had held several meetings to draw the attention of the State Government concerning the dearth of workers faced by the palm oil industry in Sarawak, which has continue to plague the industry, resulting in significant revenue losses to the industry, and consequently lower tax revenue to both the state and federal government.

In this connection, SOPPOA had submitted a proposal to the State Government with a suggestion for following measures to be implemented for the industry:

1) To allow the plantation companies in Sarawak an amnesty of nine (9) months for the identification of any illegal foreign workers, and to register them as legal workers under the government sanctioned legalisation and rehiring of illegal foreign workers programme in the State.

2) Relevant government agencies (including State Immigration and Labour Departments) to facilitate the process. The Indonesian Consulate has agreed to cooperate with SOPPOA to issue passports to the foreign workers provided that the Consulate has a letter of undertaking from the Sarawak Immigration Department stating that the Department will process and issue the work permit to the foreign workers concerned.

3) During the amnesty period, illegal foreign workers identified in the list submitted by SOPPOA member-companies will be exempted from repatriation to their home country.

4) The plantation companies concerned and these illegal foreign workers will not be penalised by the Federal and State governments and/or governmental agencies.

Report on Fourth Collaboration Meeting on MPOB-SOPPOA Research Collaboration in Sarawak

On 10 March 2016, SOPPOA in collaboration with The Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) successfully carried out a workshop, held in RH Hotel, Sibul, to generate research and development ideas to help enhance productivity and improve plantation management practices in the oil palm industry in Sarawak.

Following the workshop, a number of research projects were identified for implemented with interested SOPPOA member companies. A small task force was formed comprised of members of MPOB research team and SOPPOA R&D Committee to prioritize the identified research projects for implementation.

The MPOB-SOPPOA research collaboration trainings were successfully provided to SOPPOA R&D staff of interested SOPPOA member companies with the aim to update the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) of proposed research projects on 9-12 May 2016 in Saratok and Sibul, and 25-26 May 2016 in Miri, Sarawak.

A total of 12 SOPs and related activities have been presented to members of SOPPOA that are interested to conduct the relevant research projects. The training program was given not just to provide guidelines on SOPs, but more importantly, to enhance the knowledge and understanding of possible factors associated with low production of FFB yields and OER for oil palm planted in Sarawak.

Research findings generated from the collaborative study between MPOB and SOPPOA will be beneficial not only to oil palm estates in Sarawak, but also to the oil palm industry in Malaysia.

The list of related Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and research activities deliberated in the MPOB-SOPPOA Research Collaboration are as follows:

- Study of premature front desiccation incidence
- Study on the incidence of oil palm front snapping
- SOP on counting of fruit set and census to determine the population of pollinating weevil
- Study on the poor fruit set formation of oil palm planted on peat soil in Sarawak
- Observation on the heavy liming application of oil palm on peat
- SOP on research to control termites
- SOP on research to control bunch moth
- SOP on research on rats and its control
- Basidiospores studies on Ganoderma disease
- Nursery and field evaluation of biological control agent (BCA) products for controlling Ganoderma disease in oil palm
- Study on bunch rot disease in oil palm
- Field demonstration on effect of OS-CCCVd infection on oil palm in Sarawak

It was intended that research findings gained from these research projects be shared for the benefits of all SOPPOA members in Sarawak. Regular meetings were held to monitor and report on the progress of these research results.

The fourth meeting on MPOB-SOPPOA Research collaboration in Sarawak was held on 20 December 2016. The updates of the related standard operating procedures and research activities deliberated in the meeting had been included in SOPPOA Website under "Research and Development." Access Password is SOPPOA-R&D.



Malaysia's first commercial oil palm plantation was established at Tennamaram Estate in Batang Berjuntai, Selangor.

The oil palm (*Elaeis Guineensis*) is indigenous to West Africa where it is commonly found in the area between Angola and the Gambia. It was introduced to Southeast Asia at Bogor Botanical Garden, Indonesia in 1848. In the 1870s, Malaya received its first batch of oil palms from Kew Botanic Garden, England, where the crop was planted at the Botanic Gardens in Singapore. Its aesthetic appearance made it suitable for use as a decorative plant and soon the oil palm tree became a common sight along major roads, in front of government buildings and in public parks.



Henri Fauconnier

The 19th century Industrial Revolution in Europe prompted many young European entrepreneurs, including a young Frenchman Henri Fauconnier, to travel to the Far East to make their fortunes. In 1905, Fauconnier arrived in Malaya and months later established a coffee plantation with his friends in Rantau Panjang, Selangor. In 1911, Fauconnier visited Adrien Hallet's oil palm development in the Deli region of Sumatra and was impressed by his success. He purchased some oil palm seeds from Hallet and brought them back for experimentation at his estate.

As rubber and coffee prices at that time were depreciating, he returned to Sumatra the following year to obtain more oil palm seeds. With the seedlings obtained from these visits, Fauconnier ventured into the oil palm business and planted the oil palm for its oil at Tennamaram Estate in Batang Berjuntai, Selangor, in 1917. This first commercial oil palm estate effectively laid the foundation for the development of the palm oil industry in Malaysia.

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATION



YB Datuk Wira Haji Ahmad bin Hamzah
Chairman of MPOB



Dr. Ahmad Kushairi Din
Director General Of MPOB

PALM OIL ECONOMIC REVIEW & OUTLOOK SEMINAR 2017

PALM OIL: Driving The National Economy



Officiated By:

YB Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong
Minister Of Plantation Industries and Commodities
 Tuesday, 17 January 2017

Malaysian Oil Palm Industry Performance For 2016 and Prospects For 2017

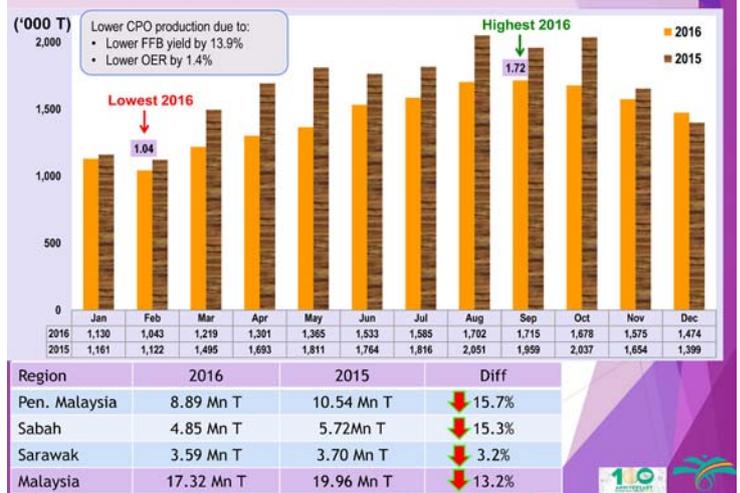
Presented By:

Dr. Ahmad Kushairi Din
Director General
 Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB)

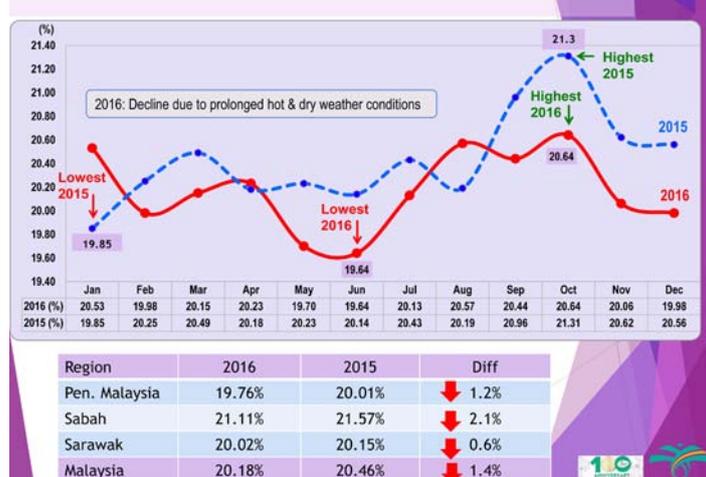
Oil Palm Planted Area by Region, 2016



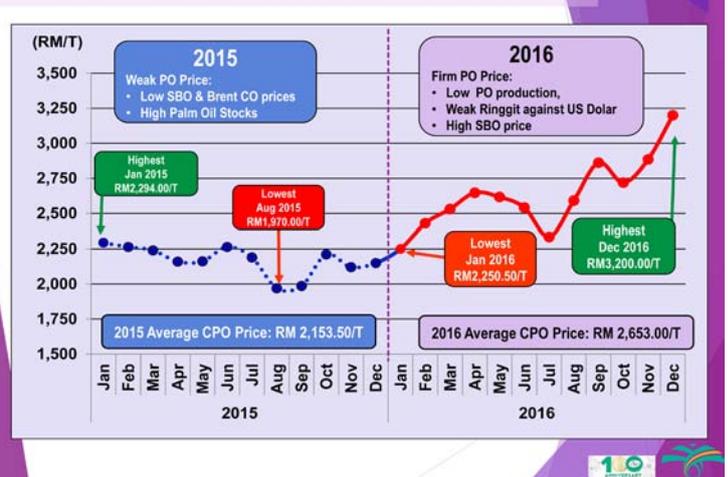
Crude Palm Oil Production, 2016 vs 2015



Oil Extraction Rate (%), 2016 vs 2015



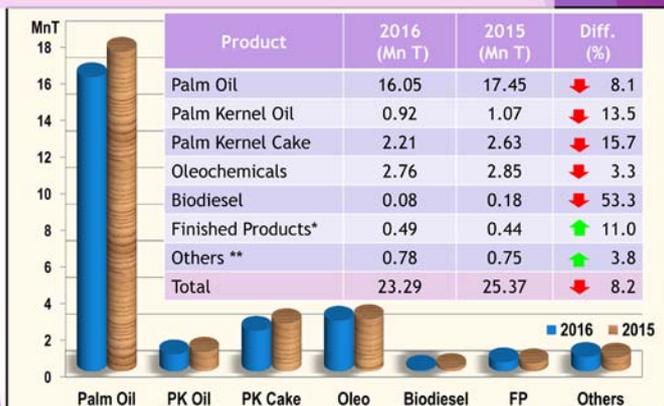
Local CPO Prices, 2016 vs 2015



PALM OIL ECONOMIC REVIEW & OUTLOOK SEMINAR 2017

PALM OIL: Driving The National Economy

Export Volume of Oil Palm Products, 2016 vs 2015

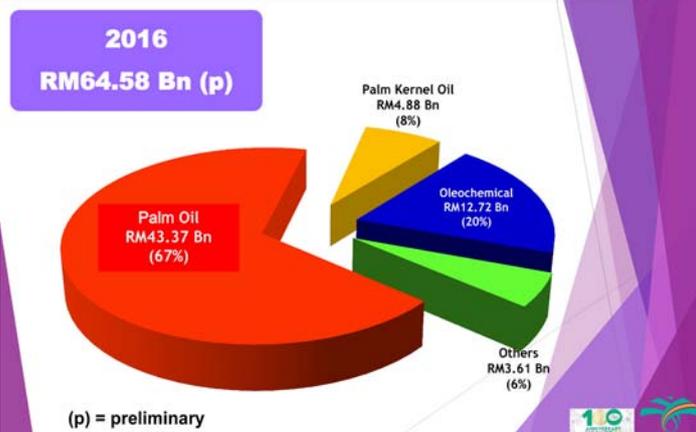


* Finished Products - Shortening, Veg. Fat, Veg. Ghee, Soap, etc.
 ** Others - Palm Kernel Shell, Oil Palm Fibre, Sludge/Residue Oil, etc.

Palm Oil: Major Export Destinations, 2016

Country	2016 (Mn T)	2015 (Mn T)	Diff (%)
1. India	2.83	3.69	↓ 23.3
2. EU	2.06	2.43	↓ 15.3
3. China	1.88	2.38	↓ 20.9
4. Pakistan	0.88	0.73	↑ 21.0
5. Turkey	0.66	0.40	↑ 64.8
6. Philippines	0.62	0.65	↓ 3.6
7. USA	0.59	0.70	↓ 16.1
8. Vietnam	0.56	0.58	↓ 4.7
9. Japan	0.46	0.54	↓ 16.2
10. Bangladesh	0.43	0.26	↑ 64.1

Export Value of Palm Products, 2016 (preliminary)



Performance of the Malaysian Oil Palm Industry 2016

Indicator	2016	2015	Difference	
			Quantity/Value	%
Planted Area (Mn ha)	5.74	5.64	↑ 0.10	↑ 3.2
CPO Production (Mnt)	17.32	19.96	↓ 2.64	↓ 13.2
FFB Yield (t/ha)	15.91	18.48	↓ 2.57	↓ 13.9
Oil Extraction Rate (%)	20.18	20.46	↓ 0.28	↓ 1.4
PO Imports (Mnt)	0.42	1.03	↓ 0.61	↓ 59.6
PO Exports (Mnt)	16.05	17.45	↓ 1.41	↓ 8.1
Closing Stocks (Mnt)	1.67	2.63	↓ 0.97	↓ 36.8
CPO Price (Rm/t)	2,653.00	2,153.50	↑ 499.50	↑ 23.2
Export Revenue (RM Bn)	64.58 (p)	63.22	↑ 4.41	↑ 7.3

(p) = preliminary

Prospects for 2017

Indicator	2016	2017	Diff. (%)
CPO Production (Mn t)	17.32	19.40	12.01
Palm Oil Exports (Mn t)	16.05	17.85	11.22
Palm Oil Stocks (Mn t)	1.67	1.80	1.69
Export Revenue (RM Bn)	64.58	73.19	13.33

CPO Price Outlook, 2017

- ▶ FFB, OER, Palm Oil Production expected to improve
 - ▶ Biological cycle of palms
 - ▶ Weather
- ▶ CPO price is expected to remain firm
- ▶ Factors influencing CPO price
 - ▶ Marginal growth in palm oil supply
 - ▶ Higher palm oil exports
 - ▶ Malaysian Ringgit remains weak against US Dollar
 - ▶ Firmer SBO and SFO prices in world market

Mah: Decision on compulsory cert

Wednesday, 25 January 2017

PETALING JAYA: The final decision on mandatory certification for all local oil palm planters under the Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) standard is expected to be announced by end February.

Plantation Industries and Commodities Minister Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong said that he would be meeting the stakeholders in the oil palm sector next month to discuss the relevance of such measure, especially for smallholders.

Taking the reality pill, Mah said the mandatory certification would be implemented across the board, if finalised. "However, the certification process will not be easy and expensive for the oil palm smallholders to comply. Thus, we are looking at novel measures to help the smallholders to be MSPO certified without burdening them.

"Perhaps, we can group the smallholders' plantations in clusters to undergo certification without incurring much cost," Mah told the reporters at the 19th Malaysia Strategic Outlook Conference 2017 yesterday.

A total of 40% or 550,000 of Malaysia's oil palm plantation players are considered smallholders.

The MSPO certification enables local oil palm plantations to be certified and recognised for sustainable practices in oil palm cultivation.

MSPO is a testimony of Malaysia's long-term commitment towards sustainable production of palm oil. Asked on the recent decision of US president Donald Trump to withdraw from the yet-to-be ratified Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade pact, Mah expressed disappointment over the move.



Mah: 'We are looking at novel measures to help the smallholders to be MSPO-certified without burdening them.'

"With the US withdrawing from the trade deal, it will effectively jeopardise Malaysia's forecast increase in oil palm exports to 11 countries under TPP. The ratification of TPP by the United States for example, would have eliminated the 95% of the tariff imposed on palm oil and palm oil-based products.

"If TPP is ratified by all negotiating countries, Malaysia's oil palm exports would have increased to RM20bil by 2021," he said, while adding that exports of palm oil products to TPP countries in 2014, was about RM13bil. At present, the US imposes tariffs of up to 18% on imported palm oil and palm oil-based products.

Mah said the remaining TPP countries could look into initiating new bilateral trade agreements or to continue with the existing TPP deal without the United States.

Reuters reported that Australian prime minister Malcolm Turnbull has held discussions with his Japanese, New Zealand and Singaporean counterparts about the possibility of proceeding with the TPP without the United States.

"Losing the United States from the TPP is a big loss, there is no question about that. "But we are not about to walk away. Certainly there is potential for China to join the TPP," Turnbull told reporters in Canberra.

Mah also said that Malaysia would be exploring more opportunities in existing and new markets globally, for palm oil exports.

"The ministry will continue to look at other markets such as India and the African countries.

"India market for palm oil alone is as big as all the TPP countries put together, thus enabling Malaysia to look for greater market opportunities for the export of our domestic commodities," added Mah.

India is the largest market, accounting for 2.83 million tonnes or 17.6% of total Malaysia palm oil exports in 2016, followed by European Union at 2.06 million tonnes and China at 1.88 million tonnes.

For 2017, the Government expects an increase of 5% to 8% for Malaysia's palm oil exports. Last year, exports of palm oil products declined by 8.2% to 23.29 million tonnes year-on-year, mainly due to lower production.

Industry to sift out carcinogens

Monday, January 23, 2017

Malaysia concerned about its commodity and is trying to completely remove the cancer-causing contaminants

KUALA LUMPUR

The palm oil industry is regularly affected by misinformation, which is churned into a frenzy of inaccurate news articles and opinion pieces by the media. Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC) chief executive officer Dr Kalyana Sundram said unfortunately, the frenzy is ever so often not supported by facts. He said the recent scare about Nutella causing cancer is a classic case in point. Recently, the New Straits Times reported that the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has released a report linking palm oil consumption — a major ingredient in Nutella — with the risk of getting cancer. The report suggested that palm oil is more carcinogenic than other vegetable oils.

This is because palm oil produces 3-monochloropropanediol (3-MCPD) and glycidyl fatty acid esters (GE) when heated above 200°C. The EFSA panel said these chemicals are genotoxic and carcinogenic. Kalyana said Ferrero S.p.A Italy, the manufacturer of Nutella that has been operating for 70 years, has gone the full mile in sourcing its raw materials, including substantial quantities of Malaysian palm oil. “This includes palm oil that has been certified to be sustainably produced, with premiums voluntarily paid for and quality-enhanced with near-zero content of 3-MCPD and GE.” He said the underlying issue relates to the presence of contaminating 3-MCPD and GE residues in all types of oils and fats. “All oils and fats producers and food industry players have known this for more than a decade. It occurs in olive, soya, rapeseed, corn and sunflower oils as well.”

Kalyana said this issue has triggered a lengthy period of evaluation not only in Europe, but also in laboratories of the Malaysia Palm Oil Board (MPOB). He



The maker of Nutella, Ferrero S.p.A of Italy, has gone the full mile in sourcing of its raw materials including substantial quantities of Malaysia palm oil.



Palm oil has naturally occurring minor nutritional constituents, such as tocotrienols, carotenes and phenolics. They are being studied for their anti-cancer properties.

said MPOB has published its findings in scientific journals and acknowledged the higher content of these contaminants in palm oil compared with other oils and fats. “The reasons for their occurrence are several-fold, starting from cultivation due to soil condition, up to the final processing and refining.”

Kalyana said since palm oil is used in several leading infant formulations, the board’s first step is to reduce the contaminants or eliminate them from baby food. “Global infant formula manufacturers use premium palm oil fractions in their products. This was acknowledged in the EFSA report, which was cited by the media.” He said when the EFSA report was revealed in the middle of last year, the Malaysian palm oil industry had initiated a focused dialogue between plantation companies, millers, refiners and end-users. “Collectively, we agreed to work towards adopting processing technologies that aim to reduce or eliminate the contaminants in palm oil.” He said the matter has been highlighted to the cabinet through the Plantation

Industries and Commodities Ministry. “Minister Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong has impressed upon the cabinet on the urgency and need to innovate and reduce, or eliminate these contaminants in palm oil.” A special allocation to adopt that technology was granted by the Malaysian government. “We are executing measures to remove these contaminants, and possibly, strive ahead of all other edible oils by eliminating their presence in Malaysian palm oil.” He said the Malaysian palm oil industry is concerned with the presence of 3-MCPD esters in its oil although the actual risk to human health has yet to be clearly defined. Kalyana hoped the media will refrain from associating palm oil with the risk of developing cancer.

“There is no scientific evidence in these allegations. On the other hand, palm oil is endowed with naturally-occurring minor nutritional constituents, including tocotrienols, carotenes and phenolics. “These nutrients have proven benefits, including stroke prevention and even as anti-cancer agents. Some of them are being studied for their anti-cancer and health benefits.” Following media reports that caused unwarranted concern about palm oil and cancer, the MPOC will monitor whether there are any impact on the industry and imports to Europe since the EFSA report was released. “In general, European food manufacturers, refiners and producers have indicated that, for the large part, the EFSA report has been accepted in the regulatory context. “They have begun to source for all types of oils and fats, not just palm oil, which have low content of these contaminants,” he said.

Moreover, neither the EFSA nor any other national food safety authority has advocated or suggested a ban on the consumption or use of palm oil, or any other vegetable oil for that matter. “The market that was most diverged from the regulatory context of the EFSA report was Italy, home of Ferrero’s operations, where it was, unfortunately and inaccurately, categorised as a “palm problem” instead of an issue that affects all refined vegetable oils, including olive oil.”

At present, the European food industry, which is highly-regulated and observes the highest standard of safety, has not moved to remove palm oil from their products following the release of the EFSA report. It still maintains that the regulatory context of EFSA is relevant. Kalyana said the palm oil industry will only succeed as long as consumers have trust in what they are buying is healthy, sustainable and, above all, safe. "The palm oil we sell to any part of the world has been subjected to the highest standard of quality and safety controls." With respect to the contaminants found in all vegetable oils, the board will institute close-monitoring measures and act to reduce the level of 3-MCPD esters and GE. He said the palm oil industry is also actively engaging with Fediol, the European Union vegetable oil and proteinmeal industry association, in addressing the level of carcinogenic contaminants in palm oil.

"In the near future, palm oil produced in Malaysia will be free of these contaminants. It affects all refined vegetable oils and is an issue that the entire food industry must take very seriously." Kalyana said MPOC is concerned that EFSA has not stepped in to clarify the misinformation surrounding palm oil. Meanwhile, the media is extensively quoting the food authority's evaluation of the underlying risks associated with these contaminants. He also urged the public to contact experts at MPOB or MPOC for any enquiries on the subject, as they are fully supportive of responsible media and news reports that seek to inform and educate the public at large.



Office Bearers & Council Members 2015-2017

	POSITION	NAME
1	Chairman	Mr David Tiong Chiong Ong
2	1st Vice Chairman	Dato' Sri Law Kiu Kiong
3	2nd Vice Chairman	Datu Dr Hj Sulaiman Hj Husaini
4	Secretary	Mr Shannon Yii Chong Hee
5	Deputy Secretary	Dato' Ha Tiung Noon
6	Treasurer	Mr William Yii Hee Poh
7	Council Member / Advisor	Dato Wong Kuo Hea
8	Council Member	Tan Sri Datuk Lau Hieng Wui (Deceased)
9	Council Member	Datu Vasco Sabat Singkang
10	Council Member	En Polit bin Hamzah
11	Council Member	Mr Patrick Wong Haw Yeong
12	Council Member	Mr Eric Kiu Kwong Seng
13	Council Member	Mr Wong Kai Song
14	Council Member	Dato' Wong Sie Young
15	Council Member	Mr Daniel Ding Huong Chen

ADVISORS

	POSITION	NAME
1	Advisor	Dato Wong Kuo Hea
2	Advisor	Dato' Ding Lian Cheon
3	Advisor	Mr Paul Wong Hee Kwong

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