

E-NEWSLETTER

SARAWAK OIL PALM PLANTATION OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Chairman's Message



First of all, I would like to wish all the members a HAPPY 2022.

As we all experienced, last year has been challenging for palm oil industry. We were not only into the second year of pandemic, the industry further suffered from acute labor shortage. Despite the fact that SOPPOA has had attempted all possible approaches especially having dialogues with State and Federal authorities, the closure of both Malaysia and Indonesia borders led us no way close to recruit new Indonesian workers.

Covid-19 cases in Sarawak has improved dramatically of late. Following Sarawak's transition into Phase 4 of the NRP, we pray that the State's economy to recovery in the shortest possible time. Nevertheless, these require cooperation from all walks of life.

In general, I believed that SOPPOA members are all ready for next charter of challenge. That is be ready with all necessary preparations to recruit new foreign workers when the time comes. Please ensure that you have all the SOP in place so that not only we are compliance but same time protect our business from any unforeseen obstacle that may arise from Covid-19.

It is not easy ahead, but SOPPOA is ever ready to assist in its capacity to offer the best possible service to all the members.



AGM En. Asrif Mahmud (middle) and Admin Manager Mr. Henry Gasah Ajang of PPB Oil Palms Bhd visited SOPPOA office on 1 Dec 2021.



SOPPOA was invited to participate in Bengkel Penyediaan Kerja Kerja Pengurusan Sisa Buangan Elektronik dan Elektrikal (E-Waste), 25-26 Nov 2021, at Merdeka Plaza Hotel Kuching

The purpose of the workshop is to obtain inputs from main stakeholders namely State ministries, agencies, NGOs and businesses in Sarawak to devise a framework proposal for the approval of the State on the Management of Electronic and Electrical Waste (E-Waste) in Sarawak.

This is an initiative by the Ministry of Urban Development and Natural Resources Sarawak (MUDeNR) in collaboration with Department of Environment Sarawak (DOE) and the Natural Resources and Environment Board Sarawak (NREB).

The outcome of the workshop include:-

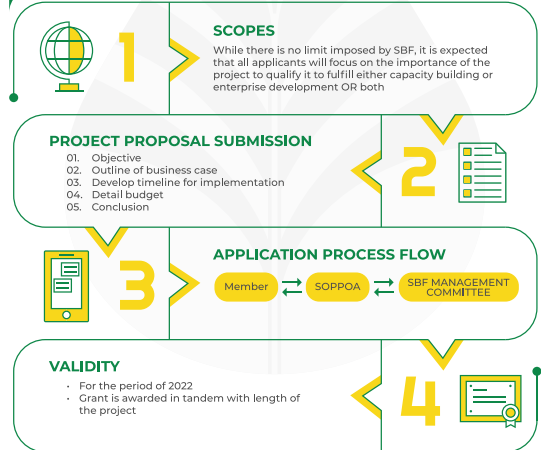
- an outline of the Mechanism of E-Waste Management in Sarawak;
- the way forward to address the gap identified during the workshop through surveys and studies for the Framework of E-Waste Management in Sarawak.

For future development, the State government of Sarawak aims to devise a framework to manage E-Waste in the State which shall consist of technical and financial mechanism as well as the legal and institutional structural required. This effort is aligned with the agendas of Digital Economy and Circular Economy under the post-Covid Development Strategy (PCDS) 2030.

RM20 MILLION BUSINESS RECOVERY ASSISTANCE



SARAWAK GOVERNMENT GRANT allocated to Sarawak Business Federation and its 16 member organizations (including SOPPOA & members) to help empower local business and proper the State's economy



Kindly contact SOPPOA Secretariat should you need further clarification

Sarawak Business Federation (SBF) was offered a one-off special grant of RM20 million from Sarawak government on 14 October 2021 which is meant to assist SBF and its 16 affiliates to organize capacity building and enterprises development programs for their members.

SOPPOA has taken the initiative to circulate a flyer via email on 23 November 2021 to encourage its members to take up the opportunity.

At the meantime, SOPPOA has also engaged 2 local learning institutions to participate in submitting project proposal to provide scholarship to underprivileged children in Sarawak for higher learning.

A first proposal with Riam Institute of Technology was submitted to SBF Review Committee on 17 December 2021. The proposal is aimed to produce 30 diploma graduates in the field of electronic and electrical, mechanical and computer science for a duration of 2 years plus 3 months of internship at palm oil industry with an estimated budget of RM1,759,050.00.

SOPPOA Chairman is optimistic that upon graduation these youths would contribute positively to the society and Nation.

PRESS RELEASES ON 29 DECEMBER 2021

Buka semula pintu sempadan

| NOOR EMMYWATIE KASIMAN
suarasarawak.news@gmail.com

KUCHING: Persatuan Pemilik Ladang Kelapa Sawit Sarawak menggesa kerajaan untuk membuka semula pengambilan tenaga kerja dari Indonesia untuk sektor berkenaan.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Dr Felix Moh berkata, ia merupakan hasrat tahun baharu bagi peladang sawit.

"Penutupan sempadan antarabangsa sejak dua tahun lepas untuk membendung penularan Covid-19 menyebabkan peladang sawit tidak dapat mengambil pekerja asing," jelasnya.

Felix berkata, ia adalah mustahil bagi peladang sawit mengambil pekerja asing untuk mengendalikan dan

menguruskan ladang mereka.

Katanya, pengambilan pekerja asing tidak berlaku buat masa itu disebabkan ramai pekerja pulang ke kampung halaman mereka.

"Keadaan ini telah mewujudkan banyak kekosongan pekerjaan dan berjuta-juta tan buah sawit tidak dapat dituai.

"Malah, peladang sawit telah berkali-kali merayu kepada kerajaan untuk membantu tetapi mereka mendakwa sempadan negara luar di luar kawalan mereka," jelasnya.

Katanya, Malaysia dan Indonesia berkali-kali mengumumkan pembukaan sempadan untuk perjalanan antarabangsa pada bulan Oktober selaras dengan penurunan mendadak kes Covid-19.

"Walaupun terdapat beberapa

halangan namun Kerajaan Indonesia akan membenarkan rakyatnya menyambung semula pekerjaan di Malaysia dengan syarat pengambilan tertentu," katanya.

Namun begitu, kemasukan pekerja asing masih belum dimuktamadkan walaupun tahun baharu 2022 hanya tinggal sehari.

Dalam pada itu, Felix menjelaskan pada tahun 2021, peladang sawit telah mengalami kerugian 20 hingga 30 peratus daripada jumlah pengeluaran tanaman akibat kekurangan kira-kira 45,000 pekerja asing.

"Cabaran tahun 2022 akan lebih besar kerana kekurangan pekerja asing semakin teruk dan dijangka lebih ramai akan dihantar pulang apabila kontrak atau permit mereka tamat," jelas Felix.

Oil palm growers want recruitment of foreign workers to resume

KUCHING: If there is a new year wish for Sarawak oil palm growers, it would be the resumption of foreign workers' recruitment.

Elaborating on their plight, Sarawak Oil Palm Plantation Owners Association (SOPPOA) chief executive officer Dr Felix Moh said for the past two years, it had been impossible for oil palm growers to recruit foreign workers to operate and manage their plantations.

"This was because of the closure of international borders aimed at curbing the spread of Covid-19. Basically, no new recruitment of foreign workers happened. However, there were many that flew home instead.

"This had created a huge job vacuum and millions of tonnes of palm fruits were left unharvested and rotten," he said in a recent statement.

He pointed out that oil palm growers had pleaded to the governments to assist many times, but their hands were tied as understandably border matters of other countries were beyond their control.

Moh noted that in light of the dramatic drop in Covid-19 cases, Malaysia and Indonesia had announced opening their borders to international travel back in October.

"Despite some hiccups, it seemed that the Indonesian government was going to allow its citizens to resume employment in Malaysia with certain recruitment conditions," he said.

Unfortunately, he said it was nearing the end of this year and oil palm growers were anxious as they were still unable to see the light at the end of the tunnel in terms of new incoming of foreign workers as promised.

He said for this year, Sarawak oil palm growers suffered from 20 to 30 per cent loss of total crop production as a result of a shortage of about 45,000 foreign workers.

"It is anticipated that 2022 will remain challenging as foreign workers shortage is only getting worse, especially when more are expected to be repatriated when their contract or permit expires," said Moh.



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毛維浩：缺人手產量銳減

油棕業盼恢復聘外勞

盼恢復外勞招聘

油棕業人力短缺

(本報古晉30日訊) 砂拉越油棕種植業者協會首屆執行員毛維浩表示，若說該協會2022年之新年願望，無疑是希望能恢復外勞招聘。

他指出，過去兩年，鑒於新冠肺炎疫情的肆虐，邊境地區紛紛被關閉，這導致油棕種植

者根本无法招募外國勞工來經營及管理種植園。

也因為如此，許多外國勞工被迫飛回各自家鄉，無形中，對該行業造成了巨大的就業空現象，數百噸的棕櫚果沒有被收成甚至腐爛。

他指出，油棕種植業者多

次請求政府給予援助，然而邊境問題超出可控制範圍，政府也手足無措，針對這點，當局也絕對可理解。

然而，鑒於新冠疫情病例數據日益減少，我國及印尼於10月份前後宣布重開邊境，尽管出現了些許問題，但印尼政府似乎持續允許其公民在具有某些招聘條件的情況下，在我國恢復就業。

而不幸的是，距離2022年只剩1天時間，油棕種植業者仍

然感到焦慮，原因在於仍看不到聘請外勞的曙光。

毛維浩是於今日發文時，如是表示。他透露，2021年，由於缺乏約4萬5000名外勞，砂拉越油棕種植業者產量減少20%至30%。

他稱，至於2022年，該業仍然充滿挑戰，原因是外勞短缺請證部只會更嚴，尤其是在他們的合同或許到期時，預計會有更多人離返。



PRESS RELEASES ON 31 DECEMBER 2021

THE BORNEO POST

Soppoa lauds creation of new portfolio in CM's Department

KUCHING: Sarawak Oil Palm Plantation Owners Association (SOPPOA) lauds the establishment of a portfolio on Labour, Immigration and Project Monitoring in the Chief Minister's Department.

Its chairman Eric Kiu Kwong Seng said this shows the seriousness of the chief minister in solving the labour issues.

Assistant Minister in the Chief Minister's Department Datuk Gerawat Gala was appointed to head the portfolio.

"The palm oil industry has faced many problems related to labour from sourcing of workers, recruiting to rehiring. This process is very tedious and expensive to the industry especially involving foreign workforces," said Kiu in a

statement yesterday.

He pointed out the rapid expansion of oil palm plantations in Sarawak in the last two decades had resulted in many companies facing shortage of workers.

Although oil palm plantation companies turned to automation and mechanisation to reduce manual labour in their operation, harvesting of palm fruits still requires workers.

He said the closure of Malaysia-Indonesia border since the onset of Covid-19 pandemic had worsened the situation with many oil palm plantation companies operating at 50 per cent less workforce.

SOPPOA chief executive officer Dr Felix Moh said he looked forward to an dialogue

between Gerawat and SOPPOA council members to discuss labour issues faced by the industry.

He stressed that the existing processes of foreign workers recruitment needed to be re-examined and improved as they were very tedious and time-consuming.

At present, he said it was not uncommon to take up between six and 10 months to recruit a new foreign worker, from submission of application to approval.

"SOPPOA has long suggested a one-stop centre and hoped that Datuk Gerawat Gala would consider it."

Moh also suggested that the bilateral relationship between Sarawak and Indonesia

governments should be enhanced through more inter-government engagements, particularly between Sarawak and Kalimantan which share common boundary.

He believed that with the participations from industry players in such engagements, many obstacles to recruiting foreign workers can be solved.

"As the new intake of foreign workers remains uncertain in a near term, SOPPOA hopes that the timely establishment of the portfolio would skip its 'honeymoon period' and jump start the new recruitment immediately so that further financial losses to the palm oil industry can be minimised," he added.

(民丹莪 31 日讯) 砂拉越油棕种植业者协会 (SOPPOA) 主席邱冠森表示高兴, 并恭贺砂政府成立劳工、移民和项目监督部的新部门, 这表明首长将通过委派助理部长拿督格拉瓦加拉专门监督该部门, 以解决劳工的严肃性问题。

他在文告中指出, 棕榈油行业面临许多与劳动力相关的问题, 从工人采购、招聘到重新雇用, 这个过程对于该行业来说是非常乏味和昂贵的, 尤其是涉及外国劳动力的行业。

邱冠森详细说明, 过去 20 年, 砂拉越油棕种植园迅速扩张, 导致许多公司缺乏工人。即使种植公司在过程中应用一定程度的自动化和机械化, 棕榈果的收获仍然需要手工劳动, 因为砂拉越的种植条件尚无合适的自动化设备可用。

"自冠病爆发以来, 我国和印尼之间的边界关闭使情况恶化, 许多油棕种植公司的劳动力减少 50%。"

邱冠森：油棕業缺勞動力

砂新部門可解決客工荒

毛维浩：重审视聘外劳流程

砂拉越油棕种植业者协会首席执行官毛维浩在文告中称, 期待格拉瓦加拉和该会理事会成员接触, 讨论该行业所面临的劳工问题。

他强调, 现有的外劳招聘流程非常繁琐和耗时, 需要重新审视和改进。目前, 招聘一名新外劳从提交申请到获得批准需要长达 6 至 10 个月的时间, 这并不少见。对此, 该会早前提出一站式中心的建议, 希望助理部长能够考虑。

毛维浩也建议, 砂拉越和印尼政府应加强双边关系, 特别是砂拉越和加里曼丹共享共同边界的情况下。有了行业参与者的参与, 许多与劳动相关的误解可以得到缓解。

"由于短期内新的外劳人数仍不确定, 协会希望该部门能够及时跳过其 '蜜月期', 立即启动新的招聘, 从而使棕榈油行业遭受的经济损失最小化。"

SOPPOA welcome formation of new govt department

KUCHING: Sarawak Oil Palm Plantation Owners Association (SOPPOA) welcomes the establishment of the Department of Labour, Immigration and Project Monitoring

Soppoa chairman Eric Kiu Kwong Seng was delighted with the establishment of the new department announced by Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg.

"This demonstrated the seriousness of the Chief Minister in solving the labour issues by assigning an Assistant Minister in the Chief Minister's Office, Datuk Gerawat Gala, to specifically oversee the department."

He reiterated that the palm oil industry had faced many problems related to labour - from sourcing for workers, recruiting to rehiring.

Kiu added that the rapid expansion of oil palm plantations in Sarawak for the last two decades had resulted in many companies short of workers.

"Even though the plantation companies applied certain degrees of automation and mechanisation in the processes, harvesting of palm fruits still require manual labour as there is no suitable automated equipment available yet for Sarawak's plantation condition."

"Furthermore, the closure of

borders between Malaysia and Indonesia since the pandemic has worsened the situation and many oil palm plantation companies are operating at 50 per cent less workforce."

In addition, Soppoa chief executive officer Dr Felix Moh was looking forward to having an engagement between Gerawat and Soppoa council members to discuss all the labour issues faced by the industry.

"The existing processes of foreign worker recruitment need to be re-examined and improved as they are very tedious and time consuming."

"Presently, it is not uncommon to take up as long as six to 10 months to recruit a new foreign worker - from submission of application to approval."

"With this, we have long suggested a one-stop centre and hope that the Assistant Minister would consider it."

Moh also suggested that the bilateral relationship between Sarawak and Indonesia be enhanced through more government to government (G2G) engagements.

He hoped that the timely establishment of the department would skip its 'honeymoon period' and jumpstart the new recruitment immediately to minimise financial losses to the palm oil industry.

Webinar: Malaysia Budget 2022 Briefing on 4 January 2022



This webinar was organized by Sarawak Oil Palm Plantation Owners Association (SOPPOA). SOPPOA invited two speakers from Ernst & Young to deliberate on how the recent proposed tax changes affecting the business wellbeing palm oil industry.

In his opening remarks, SOPPOA Chairman Mr. Eric Kiu, informed the participants that the crude palm oil (CPO) price for 2021 was phenomenon and many growers are blessed with the high price. He foresaw that the Malaysian palm futures are expected to remain favorable in the first half of 2022, but as a commodity, CPO price is subject to correction.

He stressed that despite labor shortage is still the main challenge, the situation may improve as Malaysia is likely to ease some migrant labor travel restriction as vaccination level progress in the country. On this note, SOPPOA thankful to Sarawak government for providing mass vaccination program to inoculate every worker in the industry including undocumented migrant workers since last year. To date, many oil palm plantation workers are receiving their booster shots.

Linda Kuang, the Partner from Ernst & Young Tax Consultants Sdn Bhd Sarawak office, shared on key updates in the 2022 National Budget concerning corporate taxation, such as the taxation of foreign-sourced income, "cukai makmur", extension of the time limit allowed for unutilized business losses, and withholding tax on payments to individual agents, among others. She also provided updates on reinvestment allowance tax incentives, double deduction and special tax deduction incentives and stamp duty that may affect members of SOPPOA, as well as developments on individual taxation and real property gains tax.

Aaron Kong, a manager from Ernst & Young Tax Consultants Sdn Bhd Sarawak office, on the other hand, shared with SOPPOA's members on the key 2022 National Budget highlights in relation to indirect taxation, including the recently launched Voluntary Disclosure and Amnesty Program for indirect taxes, as well as updates on sales tax, service tax and excise duties.

邱冠森：原棕油價或回調

棕櫚期貨上半年仍利好

(丹戎葛5日訊) 砂拉越油棕種植業者協會 (SOPPOA) 主席邱冠森指出，2021年的原棕油 (CPO) 價格是現象性的，許多種植業者都因高價而得天獨厚。他預計馬來西亞棕櫚期貨在2022年上半年仍將保持利好，但作為商品，原棕油價格可能會出現回調。

該會于文告中稱，邱冠森昨日于該會舉辦的「馬來西亞2022年預算簡報」線上研討會開幕禮致詞時如斯表示。該會邀請Ernst & Young Tax Consultants有限公

司砂拉越分公司副經理江克俊分享探討最近提出的稅收變化，如何影響棕櫚行業的商業福利。

油棕業勞工接種順利

邱冠森強調，儘管勞動力短缺仍然是主要挑戰，但隨著疫苗接種率的提高，我國可能會放寬一些移民勞動力的旅行限制，因此情況可能會有所改善。該會感謝砂政府自去年以來提供大規模疫苗接種計劃，讓該行業的每個工人接種，包括無證移民的工人。迄為止，許多油棕種植園工人正在接受地打加強針。

分享2022稅務更新資訊

吳冠飛于會上分享2022年國家預算中有关企业稅收的重要更新，例如对外國來源收入徵稅、繁榮稅、延長未利用業務損失的期限、對支付给个人代理人的款項預扣稅等。她还提供可能影响該會成員的再投資津貼稅收優惠、双重扣除和特殊稅收减免優惠和印花稅的最新信息，以及个人稅收和房地產收益稅的發展。

江克俊則向該會會員分享与間接稅相關的2022年國家預算重點，包括最近推出的間接稅自願披露和特赦計劃，以及銷售稅、服務稅和消費稅的更新。



A webinar organized by SOPPOA in collaboration with Malaysian Palm Oil Certification Council (MPOCC)

Palm oil is highly sought-after edible oil due to its versatility, whereby Malaysia accounts for about 24% of global supply. 2021 has witnessed a decline of output of this most consumed edible around the world. According to MPOB data, Malaysian crude palm oil (CPO) production has dropped from 19.14 mil mt a year ago to 18.12 mil mt ending Dec 2021, attributed mainly to labor shortage. Sarawak palm oil sector reportedly short of 45,000 foreign workers whereby many major plantation companies are operating at critically 50% less field workforce. It is anticipated that the shortage is only getting more severe in this year if the issue is not addressed soon enough.

The world demand for palm oil nevertheless has been encouraging. MPOB data showed that last year Malaysian palm oil export value surged nearly 50% higher despite volume was about 10% less compared to same period a year before. This was supported by high average CPO price in 2021.

Nevertheless, palm oil is often linked to negative environmental issues such as greenhouse emission and massive forest clearing for oil palm cultivation. In recent years, palm oil has also been associated with labor exploitation including allegation over forced labor. This leads investors to demand a more vigorous internal assessment of palm oil companies in terms of environment, social and governance (ESG).

So what is ESG?

Through a joint collaboration with the Malaysia Palm Oil Certification Council (MPOCC), Sarawak Oil Palm Plantation Owners Association (SOPPOA) has organised a webinar briefing to expand its members' understanding of ESG recently.

According to Sabarinah Marzuky, traditionally investment is associated with financial return only. But over the years concerns over whether some investments were ethical emerged, and as such a concept of social responsible investing was established.

ESG is another form of such investment strategy. It is not a certification standard but rather a criteria that is of interest to investors or their stakeholders that focuses on companies' environmental practices as well as their treatment to the employees and stakeholders.

Introduction to ESG & MSPO

13 January 2022 (Thu.) | 10am to 12pm | Zoom Online Platform

Zoom Meeting Link : <https://zoom.us/j/98268641338?pwd=ZldhUmpwVWI5eG5yUEJvTUgzMUd4UT09>

TIME	EVENT
10.00am	Welcoming Remarks MPOCC
10.15am	Briefing on ESG and MSPO by Pn Sabarinah Marzuky
11.15am	Q&A
11.30am	MSPO-embedded Products and Price Risk Hedging by Mr Chan Yoon Sang, BMD
11.40am	Q&A
11.50am	Closing Remarks by SOPPOA
12.00pm	End of event

Logos for MSPO, MPOCC, and SOPPOA are displayed at the bottom.

She added that ESG issues are extensively covered in all the 5 principles of the 2022 Revised Version of Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO).

For example, Principle 1 addresses additional concerns on protection of biodiversity, deforestation, peatland conservation and new plantings to be stringent in order to curb risks of climate change. It also implements social impact assessment (SIA), environmental impact assessment (EIA) and high conservation value (HCV) assessment for new planting and mill construction.

Principle 2 places extra strength on the supply chain requirements through fair, legal, transparent, documented (or verbally agreed) pricing for products and other services. It also includes ethical conduct in business operations and transactions.

Principle 3 that focuses on compliance with legal requirements also pays much attention in the context of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) process and land mapping.

Principle 4 adds additional indicators to strengthen SIA including establishing guideline and includes establishing rights as aspects to be assessed - labor practices including workers' rights and wellbeing, forced labor, employment and working condition, and protection of human rights defenders and whistle blowers.



Principle 5 extends the coverage to include formal recognition of HCV and requires the industry players to identify and monitor greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. It also includes requirement to measure impact on diversity periodically and implementation of Integrated Pest Management by reducing the use of chemicals and promoting environmental beneficial biological agents where possible.

SOPPOA Chairman, Eric Kwong Seng, advocated that Sarawak palm oil sector has given 100% effort in implementing MSPO since its enforcement and ensured that all the members companies are certified. He stressed that other than cost factors, it takes a lot of hard work and commitment to implement MSPO. Twelve years on, cannot be denied that MSPO has improved the sustainability in the palm oil industry.

He delighted to note that the revision includes the latest sustainability requirements and practices that strengthen the position of Malaysia commitment to elevating palm oil sustainability role and garner consumer confidence. This is a timely move given the pressure from buyers on sustainability of palm oil. Therefore, government and authorities should work seamlessly to promote and ensure recognition of MSPO as the credible certification scheme by all palm oil players across the supply chain.

詩華日報

綜合

2022年1月19日 • 星期三 | A6

佔全球供應量24%

各國對大馬棕油需求高

棕油因其多功能性而成為備受追捧的食用油，馬來西亞占全球供應量約24%。2021年，這種全球消費量最大的食品產量有所下降。根據馬來西亞棕油局的数据，馬來西亞原棕油產量已從1年前的1914萬噸下降至2021年12月的1812萬噸。主要原因是勞動力短缺。據報導，砂拉越油棕行業缺少4萬5000名外國勞工，因此許多主要種植公司的現場勞動力減少了50%。如果問題得不到及時解決，預計今年的短缺只會變得更加嚴重。

最重要的是，惡劣天氣、水患和供應鏈的破壞也對去年的生產產生了負面影響。

去年出口值飆升近50%

儘管如此，世界對棕油的需求仍然令人鼓舞。馬來西亞棕油局数据顯示，去年馬來西亞棕油出口值飆升近50%，儘管數量與去年同期相比減少約10%。這受到2021年高平均原棕油價格的支持。

然而，棕油產業與溫室氣體排放和森林砍伐有關。近年來，棕油產業與森林砍伐、森林等負面環境問題有關。此外，包括強迫勞動的指控。這導致投資者要求環境、社會和治理(ESG)方面對棕油公司進行

更積極的內部評估。

通過與馬來西亞棕油認證委員會的聯合合作，砂拉越油棕種植業主協會最近舉辦一次網絡研討會，以擴大其成員對ESG的了解。

根據沙登前總理組基的說法，傳統上投資只與財務回報有關。但多年來，人們開始擔心某些投資是否合乎道德。因此建立了社會責任投資的概念。ESG是這種投資策略的另一種形式。它不是一個認證標準，而是一個投資者或其利益相關者感興趣的標準。關注公司的環境實踐以及他們對員工和利益相關者的待遇。

落實可持續發展原則

他表示，2022年修訂版馬來

西亞可持續棕油的所有5項原則都廣泛涵蓋了ESG問題。

例如，原則1解決了對生物多樣性保護、森林砍伐、泥炭地保護和重新種植的額外關注，以嚴格控制氣候變化的風險。它還對重新種植和工廠建設實施社會影響評估、環境影響評估和高保護價值評估。

原則2通過對產品和其他服務的公平、合法、透明、書面(或口頭約定)定價，對供應鏈要求給予額外的重視。它還包括商業運營和交易中的道德行為。

側重於遵守法律要求(原則3)在自由、事先和知情同意过程和土地測繪的背景也非常關注。

原則4增加了加強社會影響評估的額外指標，包括制定指導方針，並將權利確定為要評估的方面。如勞工實踐，包括工人的權利和福祉、強迫勞動、就業和工作條件，以及對人權捍衛者和舉報人的保護。

原則5擴大了覆蓋範圍，包括對高保護價值評估的正式認可，並要求行業參與者識別和監測溫室氣體排放。它還包括要求定期測量對多樣性的影響，並通過減少化學品的使用和可能的情况下推廣對環境有益的生物制劑來實施綜合害蟲管理。

砂拉越油棕種植業主協會主席Eric Kwong Seng表示，砂拉越油棕業自馬來西亞可持續

棕油實施以來，已付出100%努力確保所有成員公司都獲得認證。

他強調，除了成本因素外，實施馬來西亞可持續棕油還需要大量的努力和承諾。

“12年過去了，不可否認，馬來西亞可持續棕油提高了油棕行業的可持續性。”

他喜見修訂包括最新的可持續發展要求和實踐，加強了馬來西亞致力於提升棕油可持續發展作用和贏得消費者信心的立場。鑑於買家對棕油可持續性的壓力，這是一個及時的舉措。

因此，他希望政府和當局應緊密合作，以促進並確保將馬來西亞可持續棕油視為供應



鏈中所有棕油參與者的可信認證計劃。



Abstracts of Meetings

This section provides some insight into some of the meetings attended by SOPPOA secretariat.

1 Forced Labor, Ethical Talent Management for Malaysian Companies by Citi & KPMG

This webinar was organized by Citi Malaysia, KPMG and BNM.

The first speaker stressed that forced labor issue have gained much prominence and is expected to move further up the corporate value chains in future years. It is among the most urgent human right risks across corporate value chains, harming workers and potentially leading to reputational, legal and financial risks to companies.

The 2nd speaker summarized that, with the Malaysia context, there is growing pressure exerted by both capital markets, investors and social stakeholders on listed issuers to integrate human rights principles into their operations and the wider value chain

2 Closed Door Discussion on 3MCPDE by MPOB

MPOB invited PO refinery, mill, olechemical players for a closed-door meeting to discuss progress on 3MCPDE.

MPOB DG presented results from analyses of various commercial palm oil for 3MCPDE and GE and reported that none of the Malaysian palm oil or kernel oil comply with the given limit. However, all Indonesian palm oils were within the limit.

The meeting requested all the industrial players to discuss and present their decision on which party to carry out the washing of palm oil and present the decision to MPOB in the coming meeting.

The meeting however decided that the enforcement of 3MCPDE is on 1.1.2023 without further deferment.

3 Perbincangan Mengenai Latihan Industri 2022 SOPPOA-MPOB

MPOB has agreed to provide SOPPOA members with training on nursery, FFB grading, supervisory in POM and POM Laboratory.

However, due to unforeseen circumstances on Covid-19, these training dates need to be rearranged to later part of the year.

SOPPOA would update members once the proposed dates are available.

4 Briefing on RECODA Place and Train Program: Employ@SCOPE

This workshop was organized by Regional Corridor Development Authority (RECODA). The purpose of the meeting was to introduce EMPLOY@SCOPE that is a skills intervention program to provide industry-driven job development and creates employment opportunities for Sarawakians to tackle unemployment in the SCORE area.

The target groups are unemployed graduates or school leavers.

Training providers are encouraged to engage employers, or vice versa, to provide on job training modules to the selected candidates for at least 6 months with monthly salary offer at least RM1,200 for any given position.

In return, RECODA will subsidize the company or training provider RM3,000 to RM6,000 per trainee based on various programs.

5 Reach & Remind Friend of the Industry 2022 and Dialogue with YBM MPIC

This workshop was organized by MPOC.

The objective is to bring the attention of palm oil stakeholders important issues, challenges and opportunities facing the Malaysian palm oil in 2022. Three papers were presented:-

Paper 1:
Markets Challenges and Opportunities in 2022 by MPOC

Paper 2:
Creating Enhanced Global Outreach for Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil by MPOC.

Paper 3:
COP 26: How Will It Impact the Malaysian Palm Oil Industry by Malaysian Forest Fund.

There was a dedicated dialogue session with the Minister of MPIC after the workshop. SOPPOA had posted 3 questions to the Minister pertaining to:

- 1) Any action and timeline set to resolve labor issue?
- 2) SOPPOA was left out at MPOB and MPOC.
- 3) What is the Minister policy to MPOB Cess?

The Minister replied that she had discussed with MPOB and MPOC on the representation of SOPPOA to these 2 agencies. The KSU informed replied that MPIC is in the mid of studying various taxes or levies imposed on palm oil industry. However, MPIC cannot release the outcome yet as it will be tabled to MOF soon.



6 Perbincangan Mengenai Latihan Industri 2022 SOPPOA-MPOB

SOPPOA wrote to MPOB DG on 21 October 2021 on possibility to having training programs for her members. The first meeting to discuss on the detail of the meeting with MPOB officers was held on 1 December 2021. Subsequent meeting decided the proposed dates as given in the table above. However, the arrangement has to be deferred as a result of unforeseen circumstance arising from Omicron.

No.	Course	Proposed Venue	Proposed Date
1	Kursus Pengurusan & Penyelenggaraan Nurseri Sawit	Miri	22-23/2/22
2	Kursus dan Peperiksaan Kemahiran Menggred Buah Sawit	Bintulu	8-10/3/22
3	Kursus Penyelia Kilang Sawit	To Be Confirmed	19-26/9/22
4	Kursus Makmal Kilang Sawit	MPOB HQ	To Be Confirmed

7 Future Direction of Mechanization & Harvesting Technology Workshop

This workshop was held at Holiday Inn, Malacca from 14 to 16 January 2022.

The main objection of this workshop was to discuss and formulate the direction of MARCOP. Three strategies were proposed.

Short Term - 1 to 3 years

- With the current labor shortage situation, it was agreed that immediate solutions are needed to overcome the issue.
- Cantas, a mechanical cutter developed by MPOB years ago was identified and proven workable by some of the estates.
- However, it has several issues or shortcomings that need to be resolved before it can be fully adopted by the industry. Among others are the limited reachable height, overall weight, and high vibration.
- The management of Cantas by the estate, lack of training, and knowledge of the implementing system also were identified to contribute to the less acceptance of Cantas.

Mid Term - 3 to 5 years

- With the current labor shortage and over-reliance on foreign labor situation, it was agreed that solutions are needed to overcome the issue.
- The “EYE” is an idea to combine the technologies of image databases, sensor technology, and geolocation integration to help improve the harvesting process of fresh fruit bunches.
- The technologies aim to improve production efficiency by detecting ripe fruit bunches on the tree so that harvesters can optimize their time for searching.
- It aims to improve productivity by 30%.

Long Term - More than 5 years

- The harvesting system should include three processes i.e covering distance, searching or locating, and harvesting.
- The long term project formulation design flow should consist of 6 phases i.e empathize, define, ideate, prototype, and testing.
- Within 5 years time (2027)
 - To reduce reliance on foreign worker
 - To increase the ratio of 1: -50 ha.



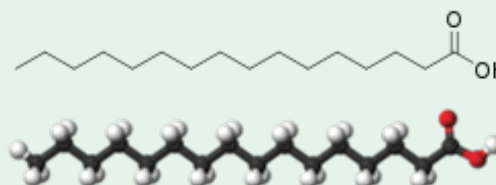
• PALM FACTS CORNER •

What You Should Know About Palmitic Acid

by Palm Oil Health | Nov 17, 2021

What is palmitic acid?

- Palmitic acid is the most common saturated fatty acid in the human diet.
- Palmitic acid is not considered an essential fatty acid because the body can make its own from glucose (sugar).



Why does the body need palmitic acid?

- The most fundamental, physiological role of palmitic acid is to support the physical properties of our cell membranes.
- Palmitic acid also supports the lungs' delicate balance of air and liquid (surfactant activity).

Which foods have palmitic acid?

- Palmitic acid is found in butter, cheese, beef, eggs, cow's milk and goat's milk and avocados.
- Dietary oils containing palmitic acid include palm oil, olive oil and coconut oil.
- Beeswax and cocoa butter also contain palmitic acid. It is popularly used to help keep skin smooth.
- Palmitic acid is used in baked goods to produce fluffier cakes and creamier fillings.

Does palmitic acid raise good cholesterol?

- Malaysian researchers found that, after two hours, meals prepared with palmitic acid and with lauric/myristic acid blends both increased HDL (good) levels significantly, by 7.6 percent and 14 percent respectively, compared with meals prepared with stearic acid, which appeared to depress the levels of HDL.

Is palmitic acid found in human breast milk?

- Palmitic acid represents about 20-25% of total milk fatty acids found in human breast milk.

What are the benefits of palmitic acid to infants?

- Palmitic acid is fundamental to infant nutrition, considered necessary in the first years of life.
- Studies show that palmitic acid in breast milk and infant formula supports infant development by positively influencing fatty acid metabolism, increasing calcium absorption, increased bone strength and stool consistency, and having a positive effect on gut microbiome development.

Why is palmitic acid sometimes fed to dairy cows?

- Dairy cows typically need more dietary fat immediately after giving birth. There is an increased demand for glucose, to be used for energy. Palmitic acid helps satisfy the extra energy demand without having an elevated need for glucose, which helps avoid the development of glucose intolerance in dairy cows.
- Palmitic acid increases milk production and milk fat in dairy cows during the early lactation phase (immediately after birth) when it might otherwise be lower due to lack of energy.