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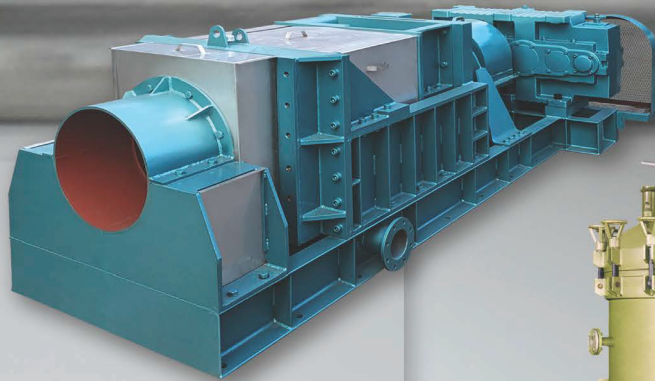
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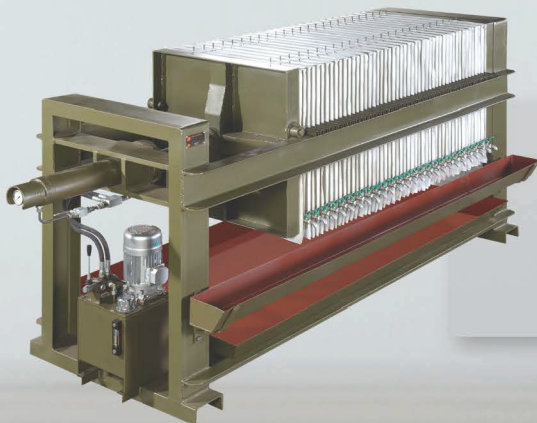
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Feed Stock : Whole EFB
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COPRA OIL EXPELLER

EK-301-CT

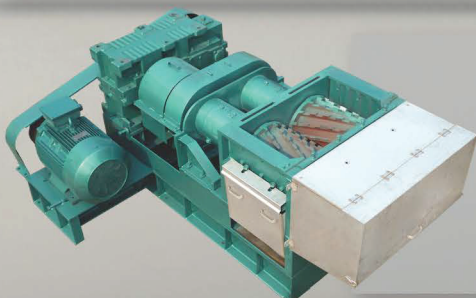
Capacity : 40 - 50 Tons
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EK-25-CT

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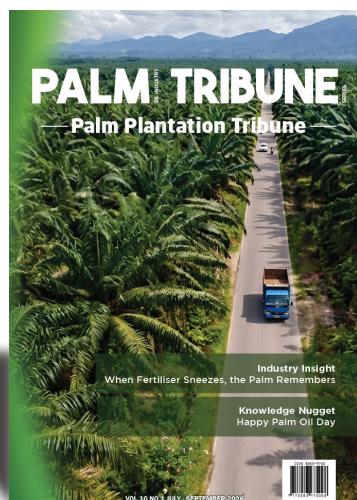
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CONTENTS

5-8

Latest News Roundup

A quick digest of the latest policies and market trends.

9-12

Industry Insight

When Fertiliser Sneezes, the Palm Remembers

15-16

Carbon Market

Beyond Hot Air: Rethinking the Carbon Agenda for People, Planet and Pocketbooks

19-22

Knowledge Nugget

Happy Palm Oil Day

23-24

IPM Insights

Integrated Approaches to Manage Rugose Spiralling Whitefly in Palm Oil Plantations

25

Oil Palm Ministries, Its Agencies And Related Associations in Malaysia and Indonesia

26

Event List 2026

ADVERTISERS INDEX

1, 2, & 13

Muar Ban Lee Group Berhad

14

Next Chapter Media

17-18

ASEAN Palm Carbon 2026

Back Cover

Palm Carbon Conference



Malaysia's SD Guthrie working with Indonesia on palm oil plantation seizures

11 June 2026

SD Guthrie is working with Indonesian authorities to address issues involving approximately 2,800 hectares of plantation land in Indonesia that have been affected by the country's forestry enforcement programme. The area represents about 2% of the group's Indonesian land bank under its Minamas Plantation subsidiary. A government forestry task force seized approximately 4.1 million hectares of plantation land in 2025 for operating in designated forest areas. The company said harvesting operations remain unaffected and that it has not received any formal decree from the Indonesian government regarding its plantations.

President and Group CEO Mohd Haris Mohd Arshad clarified that SD Guthrie is actively engaging with authorities to resolve the matter. He also described Indonesia's efforts to strengthen oversight of plantation land and commodity exports as understandable measures to address revenue leakages while safeguarding national interests. Mohd Haris also noted that SD Guthrie expects minimal impact from rising fertiliser costs due to the Middle East conflict, as the group procures its fertilisers from China, Canada, Belarus and Egypt. In addition, the company has improved water management measures to mitigate the potential effects of El Niño weather conditions this year.



Indonesia prepares 280 million plantation seeds to boost economy

9 June 2026

The Indonesian government is preparing to distribute approximately 280 million high-yielding cocoa and coconut seedlings as part of a major initiative to revitalise the plantation sector and strengthen rural economic development. The initiative forms part of a broader plantation development programme covering 2025–2027, supported by a Rp9.5 trillion (US\$522.8 million) budget allocation.

The initiative aims to develop 870,000 hectares of community plantation land nationwide and includes other strategic commodities, including sugar cane, coffee, nutmeg, cashew nuts and candlenut. Agriculture Minister Andi Amran Sulaiman said the initiative aligns with President Prabowo Subianto's vision of positioning agriculture and plantations as key drivers of economic growth.

The government has pledged to provide farmers with free planting assistance, including improved seedlings, land preparation and planting support. The programme is also expected to create up to three million long-term jobs through the expansion of plantation activities and downstream industries.





Palm Oil Day: Pride With Homework

23 April 2026

In his StarBiz Insight, the columnist argues that palm oil deserves its own national day - not as propaganda, but as informed appreciation. The idea is simple: palm oil is too important to be noticed only during price spikes, controversies or foreign criticism.

Tek presents palm oil as more than cooking oil. It is food, oleochemicals, biofuels, logistics, science, rural employment, export earnings and industrial possibility. He says a proper Palm Oil Day should honour smallholders, harvesters, mill workers, scientists, women, youth and the wider supply chain behind every drop.

He also reminds readers that palm oil helped cushion Malaysia during major shocks, including the Asian financial crisis, the global financial crisis and Covid-19 disruption.

But celebration must not hide unfinished work: replanting, productivity, labour reform, certification, biodiversity and better storytelling. Pride, he argues, must walk with responsibility.



Estate Names Carry Plantation Wit and Memory

4 January 2026

In this light-hearted BM Berita Harian piece, the columnist reminds readers that plantation estate names are not merely administrative labels. They are small archives of history, humour, geography, language and human imagination.

The article traces how early estate life in Malaya was shaped by heat, mud, hard labour and isolation, yet still produced colourful naming traditions. Tennamaram, Malaysia's pioneering commercial oil palm estate, carries an ironic Tamil-rooted link to coconut trees. Bangsar began as Bunge-Grisar, from two European planter names, later softened by local speech into one of Kuala Lumpur's most famous addresses.

In Sabah, Jeroco combined jelutong, rotan, coconut and cocoa, while Trushidup expressed the hopeful phrase "terus hidup". Elsewhere, Yam Seng, MOBE - "My Own Bloody Estate" - and reversed names such as Nordanal and Lanadron show the industry's dry wit.

Tek's larger insight is that estate names are folklore. They preserve place, aspiration, colonial memory, local tongues and planter humour. Behind every name lies not only land and crop, but a story worth remembering.





Youth and palm oil: From Sembang Sawit to sparks

22 June 2026

In his Tek Talks column in the Edge, the columnist argues that palm oil's next strategic challenge is not only land, yield, prices or compliance, but talent.

The industry faces a paradox: universities produce graduates, yet companies still struggle to find suitably prepared people for agronomy, engineering, mechanisation, data analytics, robotics, ESG, operations and management. The gap, he suggests, lies in weak alignment between education, workplace reality and career pathways.

Tek notes that plantation work is still poorly perceived by many young professionals, while graduates often encounter an industry shaped by weather, labour, biology, policy and operational complexity - realities not easily learnt from textbooks.

He calls for deeper university-industry collaboration, structured internships, clear graduate programmes, stronger mentorship and a respected Technical and Vocational Education and Training pathway.

His key message is direct: acreage alone will not secure palm oil's future. Talent will.



African Weevils Released to Lift Indonesia Palm Output

22 June 2026

Indonesia has released thousands of African weevils in North Sumatra as part of a major effort to improve palm oil pollination and revive output growth.

About 7,000 weevils were introduced at a PT Perkebunan Nusantara IV plantation, the first step in a wider plan to deploy around one million insects nationwide. The programme follows scientific testing after about 6,000 weevils were brought from Tanzania, where oil palm originated.

Researchers expect the first production impact within 10 to 12 months. More companies and smallholder groups will receive weevils in stages, while larger producers may breed them in their own laboratories.

Industry group GAPKI estimates fresh fruit bunch production could rise by 10% to 15%. However, experts caution that pollination alone cannot solve Indonesia's deeper yield problems. Ageing palms, weak replanting, fertiliser use, weather and estate management remain critical to long-term production growth.





Women Planters: When Estates Give, They Gain

23 April 2026

In his Tek Talks piece, the columnist argues that women planters are no longer symbolic exceptions in oil palm estates, but proof of an industry slowly maturing.

Writing around International Women's Day 2026, he says gender equality in plantations is not achieved through polished speeches or ESG reports, but through daily field work: early muster, block rounds, labour management, audits and operational discipline.

Tek highlights women executives in Malaysia and the region, including cadets, assistants and estate managers, whose credibility has been earned through competence and staying power. He also notes that old recruitment filters - young, single, preferably male - quietly slowed the industry's leadership pipeline.

The insight is practical: women do not need lighter work, but fair systems, safety support, mentoring, objective performance measures and balanced exposure. When estates give opportunity without qualifiers, they gain stronger operations.



Palm Oil Rally Seen Continuing on Biodiesel Demand

4 January 2026

Malaysian palm oil prices may climb further as higher energy prices make palm biodiesel more attractive, analyst Dorab Mistry said.

Reuters reported that Mistry expects benchmark palm oil futures to rise to around RM5,000 per tonne by June and possibly RM5,200 by mid-July, about 12% above current levels. The Bursa Malaysia benchmark had eased to RM4,647 at Wednesday's midday break, but remained about 15% higher since late February.

The rally is being driven by tighter supplies, rising fuel prices and a narrower gap between fossil diesel and palm biodiesel. Indonesia's plan to lift its biodiesel mandate from B40 to B50 on July 1 is also expected to support demand.

Mistry said similar biofuel moves in Malaysia, Thailand and the United States have lifted vegetable oil markets, though higher prices may curb demand in India.



When Fertiliser Sneezes, the Palm Remembers

By Joseph Tek Choon Yee



The Quiet Bag That Carries Tomorrow's Crop

There are some things in plantation life that look ordinary until they go missing. Rain is one. Labour is another. Fertiliser is certainly among them.

Fertiliser receives no applause. It has no ribbon-cutting ceremony, no drone-shot glamour and no glossy brochure of its own. It sits quietly in bags, warehouses, lorries and estate stores, waiting for someone to remember that tomorrow's crop begins long before today's bunch is harvested.

Yet for oil palm, fertiliser is not merely an input. It is deferred yield, future cash flow, biological insurance and national export earnings quietly packed into compound, mixture or straight fertiliser form. And once again, the humble fertiliser bag has become a geopolitical document.

The Invoice Is Immediate; The Yield Loss Comes Later

The danger, however, is not only the immediate invoice. It is the temptation to respond foolishly.

When fertiliser becomes expensive, some will instinctively cut dosage, delay rounds, stretch budgets, rework spreadsheets and hope biology will politely cooperate. Unfortunately, oil palms are patient, but they are not stupid.

A fertiliser cut today may not punish tomorrow morning. The crop may still come in. The fronds may still look respectable. Management may even congratulate itself on cost savings. But months later, the bill may arrive quietly through weaker bunch formation, lower bunch weight, poorer recovery and a crop profile that begins to look as though it has lost confidence.

A Local Estate, A Global Price

When shipping lanes grow nervous, energy prices rise, exporters turn cautious and conflicts disturb trade routes, fertiliser stops being a routine estate purchase and becomes a national resilience issue. The grower may apply fertiliser in Sandakan, Lahad Datu, Miri, Sibul or Segamat, but the price may be disturbed by Hormuz, Beijing, Moscow, sanctions, freight rates or currency movements.

The estate road may be muddy and local. The fertiliser price is global. Recent industry discussions have reminded us how exposed the world remains to supply-chain shocks. Ammonia, urea, sulphur and phosphate flows are linked to regions where geopolitics can quickly become economics. Urea and blended fertiliser prices have already shown how sharply inputs can move when global tension enters the warehouse.

For oil palm, this matters greatly. Fertiliser can account for around one-third of estate operating costs. When prices rise, it is not a mosquito bite. It is a full-body itch with a board-paper attachment.

The Palm Is Patient, Not Stupid

The palm has a long memory. It may take six to 24 months before poor nutrition fully shows itself in production. That is the danger of fertiliser mismanagement. It flatters the quarter and punishes the year.

There is some comfort. Oil palm is not as exposed as some annual crops to nitrogen volatility because its nutrition depends heavily on potash. Potash has not been as directly affected by some Middle East disruptions, and its prices have moved less dramatically than nitrogen and phosphate products.

But breathing room is not immunity. Nitrogen still matters. Phosphate still matters. Magnesium, boron and trace elements still matter. Timing matters. Agronomy matters. A palm cannot be told, "Please understand geopolitics and lower your nutrient expectations accordingly."

Better crude palm oil prices may help larger growers absorb some of the shock. But a cushion is not an invitation to waste. Nor is higher cost an excuse to underfeed.

Smallholders Feel the Shock First

The most vulnerable party in any fertiliser shock is often the smallholder. Large plantation companies can stage applications, negotiate better, carry stocks and optimise timing. Smallholders often simply endure.

If smallholders cut fertiliser heavily because prices have moved beyond comfort, the damage may not appear immediately. By the time national production figures soften later, everyone may ask why yields disappointed. The answer may be embarrassingly simple: the palm was underfed before the question was asked.

This is where targeted intervention matters.

Not blind handouts. Not fertiliser theatre with political bunting. What is needed is practical support: group buying, transparent pricing, credit mechanisms tied to good agronomy, stronger extension services, advisory outreach and better information on nutrient efficiency.

Smallholders should not be left alone to choose between feeding the palm and feeding the household.

Fertiliser Security Is National

This also brings us to a bigger question: should Malaysia think more strategically about fertiliser security?

The answer must be yes.

Malaysia imports large volumes of fertilisers and raw materials each year, reportedly in the range of four to five million tonnes, costing billions of ringgits. That is not just a commercial matter. It is a strategic vulnerability.



Barter: Explore, Don't Romanticise

One option that deserves sober exploration is barter or counter-trade involving palm oil and fertilisers. This idea should neither be worshipped nor mocked.

Malaysia has used palm-oil-linked counter-trade before, including arrangements with countries such as Russia, India and China in earlier decades. Using one national strength to secure another national need is not heresy. It is memory.

But barter is not magic. Palm oil is not one thing. Fertiliser is not one thing. Timing, quality, pricing formulas, exchange ratios, delivery schedules, transparency, logistics and accountability all matter. Government-to-government deals can become slow, opaque or vulnerable to manipulation if poorly designed.

So the recommendation is simple: explore barter, but do not romanticise it. Treat it as one tool, not the whole toolbox. Use it only if it improves resilience, secures critical nutrients and protects national interest without creating a playground for opportunists.

One Tool, Not the Whole Toolbox

Beyond barter lies the harder reform: better procurement intelligence, realistic pricing formulas, shorter review cycles, clearer delivery commitments, stronger quality assurance, better storage discipline and firmer enforcement.

When prices rise, quality must not fall. Growers must not pay for nutrients and receive disappointment in a bag. A fertiliser crisis should not become a festival for foxes.

Contracts also need to be commercially workable. In calm times, buyers may push hard and suppliers may absorb the pressure. In abnormal times, squeezing too hard may produce clever paper savings but poor delivery. Winning the negotiation while not receiving the fertiliser is not commercial discipline. It is cleverness expensive enough to become stupidity.

Biomass Is Not Waste; It Is Nutrient Memory

Malaysia must also take domestic nutrient recovery more seriously. We are a large oil palm nation. That means we are also a large biomass nation.

Empty fruit bunches, palm oil mill effluent, decanter cake, boiler ash and other residues should not be treated merely as leftovers from yesterday's milling operation. They are part of a potential domestic nutrient economy.

Better nutrient recycling can improve soil organic matter, reduce waste, support mill-estate integration and partly reduce import dependence. Composting, pelletising, biomass processing and ash recovery deserve serious evaluation where the economics, emissions control and logistics make sense.

There is also room to revisit more advanced approaches, including pooled and strategically located biomass processing or incineration systems to recover potassium through bunch ash and related nutrient outputs. Modern systems are not the old picture of crude burning and thick smoke. Technology has moved towards better combustion control, flue-gas treatment, residue management and even possible carbon-related integration.

Organic Sense, Not Organic Fairy Tale

But common sense must not become fairy tale. Organic resources are valuable, but they are not magic powder. They cannot simply replace mineral fertilisers overnight without yield consequences. Sri Lanka's painful experience with a sudden organic-only policy remains a warning. Green enthusiasm is welcome. Green behind the ears is not.

The answer is balance. Use organic resources better. Recover nutrients more intelligently. Build domestic circularity. But do not pretend that mineral fertiliser can be abandoned by slogan.

Malaysia's Urea Question

Malaysia should also examine its domestic urea position more carefully. We do have local production capacity through PETRONAS Chemicals' fertiliser operations. This does not mean becoming anti-export. It means asking whether, during periods of external risk, a sensible portion of locally produced fertiliser should be more deliberately secured for national agricultural use.

That is not protectionism. It is strategic balance.

Connected Policy for a Connected Crop

Fertiliser strategy must also be connected to wider palm oil policy. A strategic crop cannot be managed with fragmented thinking. Labour affects fruit evacuation. Fertiliser affects future yields. Replanting affects mill utilisation. Biodiesel affects demand. Taxes affect reinvestment. Research and development affect productivity. Logistics affect competitiveness.

The system is connected. Policy must be connected too.

Eight Practical Steps Before the Next Shock

So what should be done?



1

First, improve fertiliser market transparency so growers, especially smallholders, understand price movements, supply risks and quality issues more clearly.



5

Fifth, explore counter-trade or barter arrangements carefully as a supplementary tool, not a miracle cure.



2

Second, strengthen fertiliser standards and enforcement. In difficult times, opportunists flourish where clarity is weak.



6

Sixth, accelerate nutrient recovery from palm biomass and mill by-products where economics and environmental controls are sound.



3

Third, support smallholder group procurement and credit mechanisms tied to proper agronomic advice.



7

Seventh, review how Malaysian-produced fertilisers can contribute more deliberately to national agricultural resilience.



4

Fourth, build strategic stockholding and better estate-level storage where practical.



8

Eighth, encourage high-efficiency fertilisers, better application timing, soil testing, precision agronomy and improved nutrient-use efficiency.

These are not glamorous recommendations. Fertiliser policy rarely makes people rise to their feet in applause. But then again, neither does an estate drain - until the rain comes.

Foresight Is Cheaper Than Recovery

In the end, fertiliser is not merely about NPK Mg B (nitrogen, phosphate, potash, magnesium, boron or trace elements). It is about foresight.

It is about respecting the biology of the palm, understanding global vulnerability, protecting smallholders and refusing to turn short-term cost savings into long-term national self-harm.

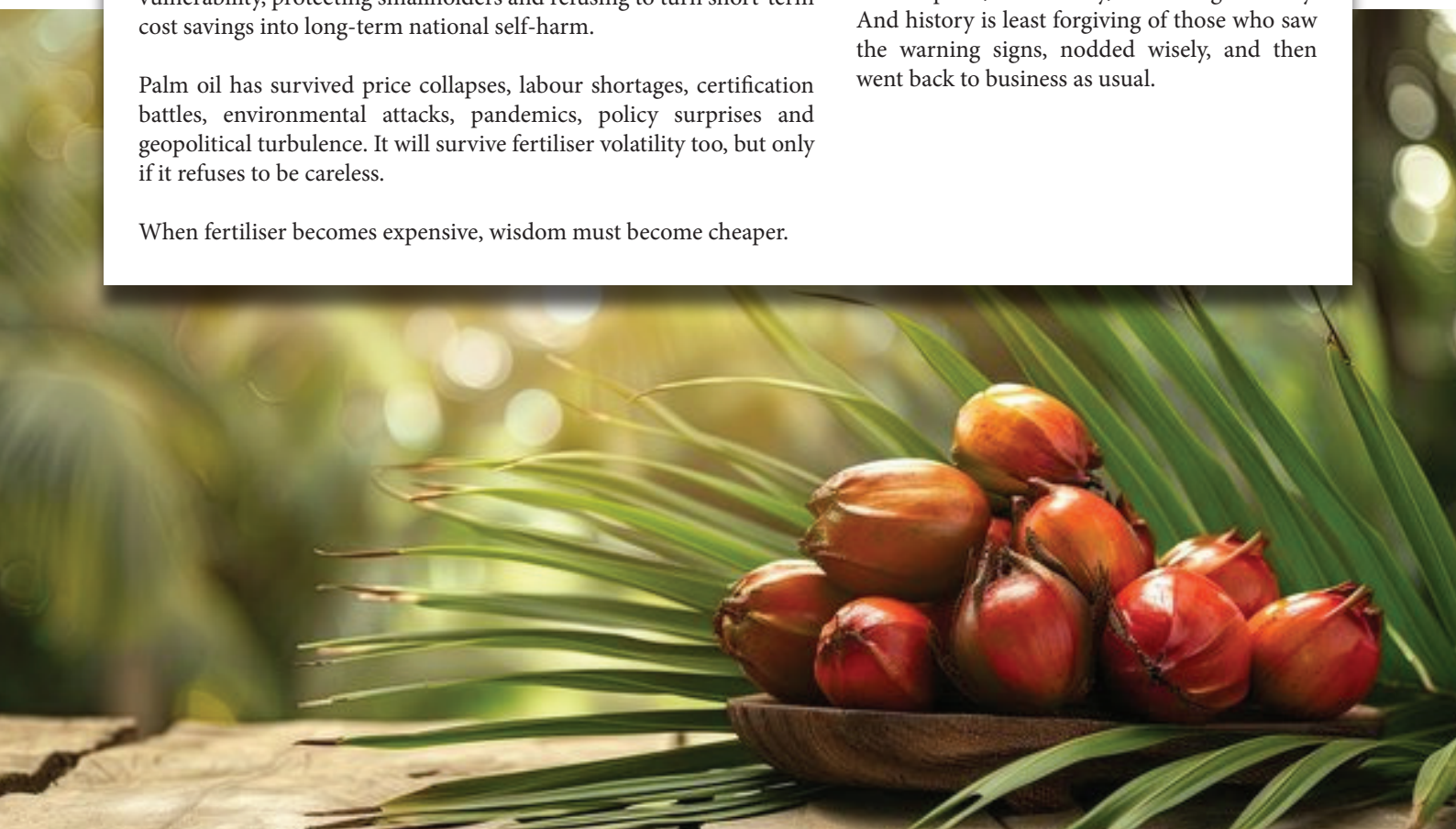
Palm oil has survived price collapses, labour shortages, certification battles, environmental attacks, pandemics, policy surprises and geopolitical turbulence. It will survive fertiliser volatility too, but only if it refuses to be careless.

When fertiliser becomes expensive, wisdom must become cheaper.

Feed the Palm Wisely, and It Will Remember

Feed the palm wisely, and it will remember. Starve it casually, and it will also remember.

The oil palm, like history, has a long memory. And history is least forgiving of those who saw the warning signs, nodded wisely, and then went back to business as usual.





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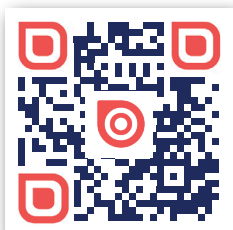
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Beyond Hot Air: Rethinking the Carbon Agenda for People, Planet, and Pocketbooks

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We must first stop pretending carbon is like wheat or gold. Commodities markets work because a barrel of oil is identical whether pumped in Texas or Saudi Arabia. But a tonne of carbon avoided in Berlin is not the same as a tonne stored in a mangrove in Indonesia. Permanence, additionality, and leakage are not abstract accounting terms—they are the difference between real climate action and corporate greenwashing. Too many credits today fund projects that would have happened anyway, or that could go up in smoke, literally, in wildfire season, next year. The world should therefore move toward jurisdictional and sectoral carbon credits, verified by an independent, science-based global body akin to the IPCC for markets. No more bespoke, unverifiable cookbooks.

For a while, carbon was the villain—an invisible exhaust fume to be taxed, capped, or buried. Now, carbon has been rebranded as a commodity. Suddenly, everyone from investment bankers to Amazonian villagers is talking about carbon credits, offsets, and futures markets. The logic is seductive: put a price on pollution, trade permits, let the market find the cheapest way to decarbonise. But after two decades of experiments, from Kyoto to Glasgow, one uncomfortable truth remains: a truly efficient, equitable carbon market is not just a technical problem—it's a political and moral minefield.

So how should the world approach the carbon agenda so that the outcome benefits environment, society, and governments alike? Experts believe it should not be through a single global market, but through a layered, hybrid ecosystem that prioritises integrity, justice, and pragmatism over financial speculation.

Second, separate compliance from voluntary markets, but link them intelligently. Governments need compliance markets with hard caps—the EU ETS, California's system, and China's nascent national market are imperfect but essential. These should cover heavy industry, power, and aviation, with auctioned allowances not free giveaways, to fund a just transition. Meanwhile, voluntary markets should be for companies going beyond regulation, not replacing it. But both markets must share a common transparent registry. A credit used for compliance cannot be double-counted for corporate net-zero claims. The world needs a central, publicly auditable ledger—call it a Carbon Trust Protocol—to kill double counting and fraud.

Third, put a floor on price and a ceiling on offset use. Without a minimum carbon price (say, \$50–\$75/tCO₂e, rising over time), markets will oscillate between too cheap to matter and too volatile to plan. A global price floor agreed by G20 nations, with rebates for lower-income countries, would drive real investment in clean tech. Simultaneously, no company should be allowed to offset more than, say, 20% of its compliance obligation. The rest must come from actual emissions cuts. Otherwise, carbon markets become indulgences for the rich—environmental absolution without sacrifice.

Fourth, ensure that carbon revenues flow back to communities, not just treasuries. The biggest failing of existing markets is equity. When a forest is protected for credits, who benefits? Too often, it's intermediaries and speculators, while indigenous guardians lose access to traditional lands. The solution is benefit-sharing agreements enshrined in law: at least 50% of credit revenues from nature-based solutions must go directly to local stewards. Similarly, proceeds from auctioned allowances should fund green retraining, coal-worker pensions, and renewable energy access in underserved areas. Otherwise, the carbon agenda will deepen the very inequalities it claims to heal.

Fifth, governments must be honest about the limits of markets. Carbon credits are not a substitute for regulation, investment, or behaviour change. The world has tried to marketise its way out of the climate crisis, and it has failed to bend the curve. A tonne not emitted is only valuable if we are also eliminating sources. So, alongside any carbon market, governments must mandate sectoral decarbonisation pathways, phase out fossil fuel subsidies, and invest heavily in public transport, grid storage, and regenerative agriculture. Carbon markets are a tool, not a strategy.

In the end, the carbon agenda will benefit all only if we stop treating it as a financial derivative and start treating it as a public utility. That means less Wall Street, more agroecology. Less blockchain for offsets, more blockchains of trust. Less abstract “net zero” flimflam, more verified, local, and fair emission reductions.

Carbon has taken centre stage. Let us not waste the spotlight on another round of speculative theatre. Let us build markets that are rigorous, redistributive, and real—because the climate will not forgive another decade of hot air. There is no denying that the true functioning of a carbon faces many challenges. This calls for a serious rethink by all on what outcomes we are looking for when implementing the carbon agenda!



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CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The ASEAN Palm Carbon Conference (APC) 2026 is a business conference dedicated to exploring how the palm oil industry can strategically transform carbon management and biomass utilisation into viable commercial opportunities whilst driving ASEAN's low-carbon transition.

Bringing together policymakers, industry leaders, institutional investors and technology providers, the conference examines the regulatory frameworks, market mechanisms, and business models shaping the modern low-carbon bioeconomy. Through strategic discussions and industry case studies, delegates will gain insights into carbon markets, renewable fuels, bioenergy, and waste-to-value solutions, with a singular focus on protecting long-term competitiveness and fostering robust regional collaboration across the palm oil value chain.

WHY IT MATTERS

The global regulatory landscape is shifting rapidly. As carbon pricing mechanisms mature and international demand for certified low-carbon products intensifies, the palm oil industry stands at a critical juncture. Proactive adaptation is no longer merely a compliance measure; it is a core commercial imperative. APC 2026 provides the timely intervention required for industry players to convert biomass liabilities into premium assets, safeguard market access, and align corporate strategies with regional net-zero targets.

KEY DISCUSSION AREA

Carbon Markets & Policy Frameworks

Renewable Fuels & SAF

Bioenergy & Biomass

Carbon Removal & Biochar

The Circular Bioeconomy

Waste-to-Value Solutions

Green Finance & Investment

Emerging Technologies

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Plantation Companies & Estate Groups
- Palm Oil Millers and Refiners
- Downstream Manufacturers
- Biomass, Bioenergy & Renewable Fuel Companies
- Technology & Infrastructure Providers
- Carbon Project Developers
- Financial Institutions & ESG Investors
- Government Agencies & Regulators
- C-suite Executives & Business Leaders
- Sustainability & ESG Directors
- Operations & Technical Managers
- Business Development & Strategy Teams
- Carbon Assets & Climate Specialists
- Investment Bankers & Project Finance Leads
- Policymakers & Senior Statutory Officials
- Industry Associations & Research Institutes

Happy Palm Oil Day, Anybody?

By Joseph Tek Choon Yee



Montage visual created with AI by the author



I once dragged lobsters and oysters into my palm oil article.

Not because I had lost my way between the estate road and the seafood aisle, but because the lobster and oysters had a useful lesson to teach. Lobsters and oysters were once common fare before story, scarcity, ritual and reputation slowly lifted them into culinary respectability.

Olive oil, too, did not become glamorous by sitting quietly in a bottle. It was elevated by language, culture, health narratives and Mediterranean romance.

That was the point then, and it remains the point now. Palm oil also deserves a better story than the flat, tired one too often told about it. *Tak kenal maka tak cinta* - one cannot love what one does not properly know.

From there, another thought began to germinate.

The world seems happy to celebrate almost everything edible. Pasta has its day. Apples have theirs. Even the carrot, that earnest orange civil servant of the vegetable kingdom, enjoys an annual moment of dignity.

If the global calendar has room for starch, fruit and root vegetables, surely there is room for one of the world's most important vegetable oils.

So why not a Happy Palm Oil Day?

This is not merely a playful thought bubbling in an overexcited wok. It is a serious idea wearing a cheerful shirt. Palm oil is too deeply embedded in our lives to be noticed only when prices rise, controversy erupts or foreign critics clear their throats.

It deserves at least one day a year when it is approached not as accusation, caricature or guilty ingredient hiding behind the biscuit tin, but as one of the great working companions of Malaysian life.

Palm oil is not just for the frying pan. It is food, nutrition, oleochemicals, biofuels, specialty fats, personal care, home care, manufacturing, logistics, research, exports, rural livelihoods and industrial possibility. It does not merely sit in a bottle waiting to be poured. It works overtime.

It begins the morning in soap or shampoo, appears at breakfast through bread, spreads or bakery ingredients, turns up later in food manufacturing, keeps an eye on detergents and cosmetics by afternoon, and may still be clocking in by evening through industrial or specialty applications. If oils had trade unions, palm oil might file a complaint for excessive duties and insufficient appreciation.

That is precisely why it deserves a day.

Not because it is flawless. No crop is. No industry is. No country is. Maturity is the ability to celebrate something honestly without pretending there is no homework left. A proper Palm Oil Day should not be propaganda in festive clothing. It should be a day of informed appreciation, public education and responsible pride.

What, then, should such a day celebrate?

First, **the people**. Not just the product.

The smallholders, planters, harvesters, mill workers, mechanics, drivers, weighbridge clerks, refiners, laboratory staff, researchers, traders, marketers and all those whose livelihoods are tied to the crop. It should recognise the women across the value chain whose contributions have too often been treated as supporting roles when they are part of the main story. It should speak also to the young, who should inherit not only the industry's burdens, but also its possibilities.

A Palm Oil Day that fails to honour people would be like nasi lemak without sambal: technically present, but missing the soul.



Second, it should **celebrate scale** - not for boasting, but for perspective.

Palm oil is not a small side note in Malaysia's economy. Its footprint stretches from nurseries, estates and mills to refineries, ports, transport, packaging, manufacturing, trading, research, services and public finance. Too often, people notice only the bottle, not the civilisation of work behind it.

Malaysia has also been blessed by palm oil in difficult times. During the Asian financial crisis of 1997–98, the global financial turmoil of 2007–08 and the Covid-19 disruption of 2020–21, palm oil earnings helped cushion the national blow. Not cure it, certainly. But cushion it. Economies, like old estate roads, are usually too muddy for miracles.

Palm oil did not ride in like a superhero wearing a hard hat. But in those stressful moments, it provided ballast. It generated export earnings, supported rural livelihoods, contributed to national income and kept a wide value chain moving when many parts of the economy were under strain.

So when one says Malaysia is blessed with palm oil, one need not become mystical. One only needs to be numerate.

Third, Palm Oil Day should **celebrate presence**.

Palm oil is one of the quiet giants of modern life. It is everywhere, yet seldom introduced properly. That invisibility has consequences. It allows others to define the crop narrowly. It leaves the public with fragments instead of a fuller portrait. It narrows the imagination.

We keep speaking of palm oil as though it were merely a commodity, when it is also chemistry, nutrition, trade policy, rural development, food affordability, industrial innovation and livelihood. It is, if I may say so, much more than crude. That unfortunate adjective has probably caused enough damage already.

Fourth, and because this is Malaysia, Palm Oil Day should **celebrate the table**.

Food is not merely fuel. It is memory, identity and fellowship. Palm oil does not live only in policy papers, certification debates or NGO briefings. It lives where ordinary people live - at breakfast tables, hawker stalls, bakery counters, Ramadan bazaars, festive kitchens and the everyday democracy of shared meals.

We do not build national belonging only through slogans. We also build it by eating together. In that sense, palm oil is not merely an ingredient. It is part of the choreography of everyday Malaysia.

Imagine such a day done well.

Not dreary seminars with tired banners and speeches that dribble into the tea break. Let there be cooking festivals featuring everyday favourites and more premium creations. Let chefs, homemakers, students and small entrepreneurs show what palm-based products can do. Let red palm oil, where suitable, have its moment too.

Let schools introduce “**Know Your Palm Oil**” sessions so children encounter the crop as science, history, livelihood and national story - not merely as background noise in imported debates. Let universities and researchers hold lively exhibitions on breeding, nutrition, biomass, oleochemistry and sustainability. Let public spaces trace the journey from fruit bunch to refined products, from plantation to pharmacy shelf, from estate road to export port.



Let there be awards for smallholder excellence, young innovators, women leaders, community enterprises, educational campaigns and perhaps even the bravest attempt to explain triglycerides without causing innocent citizens to drift gently into sleep.

Social media - that great modern estate road where everyone honks at everyone else - could be useful for once. It could amplify literacy instead of outrage: recipes, family stories, plantation memories, downstream discoveries, biodiversity work, replanting success, circular economy ideas and honest explanations of sustainability.

The ministry and its agencies could help convene. Industry associations could contribute. Companies could open their doors. Schools, chefs, nutritionists, agronomists, marketers, journalists, smallholders and communities could all play a part.

In time, Malaysia could even invite other producing countries to widen the celebration. That would not be vanity. It would be narrative maturity.

But the tone matters.

Palm Oil Day must not become self-congratulation with canapés. It must be honest enough to **acknowledge unfinished work**: replanting, productivity, mechanisation, labour conditions, smallholder support, certification credibility, biodiversity, downstream upgrading, better storytelling and more thoughtful engagement with consumers.

The most convincing celebration is one that **does not hide its homework**.

At the same time, the sector should not remain timid. Palm oil has spent too many years entering the room as though it must apologise for being there. Enough.

Pride is not the enemy of responsibility. Celebration is not the opposite of reform. Properly handled, they belong together.

A society that cannot speak well of its strengths will struggle to improve them. A sector that hears only criticism may forget how to dream. And dreaming, when disciplined by facts, reform and effort, is not frivolity. It is strategy with a heartbeat.

It is also fitting to express gratitude to the many people who make this industry possible: those in the estates before sunrise, those in mills when the machines refuse to behave, those in laboratories, ports, refineries, boardrooms and smallholder plots; those who built the industry before us, and those who must now renew it.

So yes, **palm oil deserves a day**.

A day to recognise the people behind it. A day to teach the young what this crop has meant, and still means. A day to connect kitchen, estate, mill, lab, boardroom and breakfast table in one national conversation. A day to appreciate not only yield and export earnings, but resilience, reinvention and the long chain of human work hidden behind every drop.

A day, in short, to meet palm oil properly - with wit, warmth, dignity, gratitude and a little national backbone.

1 PALM OIL Deserves a Day

Not just for the frying pan. But for the nation.

Palm oil powers our food, our homes, our industries and our livelihoods. Let's give it a day of appreciation, education and responsible pride.

- FOOD & NUTRITION**
From kitchen to food manufacturing
- DAILY ESSENTIALS**
Soaps, detergents, cosmetics & more
- INDUSTRY & INNOVATION**
Oleochemicals, biofuels, specialty fats
- LIVELIHOODS & ECONOMY**
Millions of jobs. Countless families. National strength.

2 A DAY TO CELEBRATE People, Scale & Strength

THE PEOPLE
Smallholders, planters, harvesters, millers, mechanics, drivers, scientists and women across the supply chain. You are the heart of palm oil.

THE SCALE
A vast ecosystem touching estates, mills, refineries, ports, manufacturing, services, research and the nation's economy.

THE STRENGTH
In times of crisis, palm oil has been a cushion of stability - 1997/98, 2007/08, 2020/21. Not a hero, but a steady ballast when it mattered.

Built by many. Valuable to all.

3 NOT A PERFECT CROP. But a Purposeful One.

Palm Oil Day is not about ignoring challenges. It is about facing them with honesty, improving with action, and communicating with truth. Let's give palm oil the respect it earns every single day.

HAPPY PALM OIL DAY!

EDUCATE
Share facts. Build understanding.

ENGAGE
Connect across communities.

IMPROVE
Sustain better. Do better.

INCLUDE
All voices matter. All contributions count.

CELEBRATE
With gratitude. With dignity. With pride.

From our palms to our future.

Montage visual created with AI by the author

Integrated Approaches to Manage Rugose Spiralling Whitefly in Palm Oil Plantations

In 2018, severe infestation of invasive rugose spiralling whitefly (RSW) *Aleurodicus rugioperculatus* Martin (Hemiptera:Aleyrodidae) was reported on oil palm plantations in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, India.

The infestation was higher in younger palms (around 5 years old) compared to older palms (>8 years) and was mainly observed on the lower leaves.

In Andhra Pradesh, pest populations reached 11–20 egg spirals or adults per leaflet, while in Karnataka the population was generally below 10. Severe infestations in Andhra Pradesh also resulted in black sooty mold covering the upper leaf surfaces.



Impact of Whitefly Infestation on Oil Palm Leaves



Honeydew Production

Extensive feeding of the pest leads to the excretion of large quantity of honey dew. The honey dew gets deposited on the upper surface of the leaves positioned down beneath or even on any other plant under oil palm.

Waxy Flocculent Material

Eggs are yellowish and elliptical, laid singly in irregular spirals with white wax. Immature stages produce wax filaments, while adults release waxy dust during movement that can be a nuisance to humans.



Integrated & Systematic Whitefly Management: Field-Proven Solutions

Biological Control

Isaria fonomorosea (Fungal Bioagent):

- Dose: 5 g/litre of water
- Time: Spray early morning/evening
- Tip: Add 5 ml/litre neem oil or soap for better leaf coverage

Green Lacewing (*Chrysoperla zastrowi sillemi*):

- Dose: 1000–1500 eggs/larvae per hectare
- Release: Every 15 days for 2–3 rounds

Encarsia guadeloupae (Parasitoid Wasp)

- Dose: 1000–2000 adults/hectare
- Method: Release near whitefly colonies

Mechanical & Physical Measures

Yellow Sticky Traps: 10–15 per hectare, mid-canopy level. Change every 2–3 weeks. High-Pressure Water Spray: Weekly during peak infestation. Dislodges eggs/nymphs from leaf undersides.

Cultural & Climatic Measures

Pruning: Remove infested fronds. Avoid overcrowding. Monsoon Effect: Rain naturally reduces whitefly buildup. Avoid indiscriminate chemical use: Protect pollinators and natural enemies.

Leaf Damage

The infestation may result in the premature drying of leaflets and leaves. Reduction in bunch yield of about 20%-25% was reported by growers.



Sap Feeding

The adult whiteflies and immatures were found to suck the sap on the under surface of the leaves/leaflets of the oil palm.



OIL PALM MINISTRIES, ITS AGENCIES AND RELATED ASSOCIATIONS

MALAYSIA



Ministry of Plantation and
Commodities (KPK)
www.kpk.gov.my



Malaysian Palm Oil Board
(MPOB)
www.mpob.org.my



Malaysian Palm Oil
Council (MPOC)
www.mpoc.org.my



Malaysian Sustainable
Palm Oil (MSPO)
www.mspo.org.my



Malaysian Palm Oil Green
Conservation Foundation
(MPOGCF)
www.mpogcf.org



Malaysian Palm Oil
Association (MPOA)
www.mpoa.org.my



Malaysian Estate Owners'
Association (MEOA)
www.meoa.org.my



Sarawak Oil Palm
Plantation Owners
Association (SOPPOA)
www.soppoa.org.my



The East Malaysia Planters'
Association (EMPA)
www.theempa1889.wix-site.com/empa



The Incorporated Society
of Planters (ISP)
isp.org.my



Sarawak Dayak Oil Palm
Planters Association
(DOPPA)
www.doppa.org



National Organisation of
Smallholders
(NASH)
www.pkpkm.org.my



Malaysian Agricultural
Producers Association
(MAPA)
www.mapa.net.my

INDONESIA



Badan Pengelola Dana
Perkebunan Kelapa Sawit
(BPD PKS)
Indonesian Palm Oil Plantation
Fund Management Agency
<https://www.bdpd.or.id/>



Gabungan Pengusaha Kelapa
Sawit Indonesia (GAPKI)
Indonesian Palm Oil
Association
<https://gapki.id/en/>



Indonesian Oil Palm
Research Institute (IOPRI)
Pusat Penelitian Kelapa
Sawit (PPKS)
<https://iopri.co.id/>



Palm Oil Agribusiness
Strategic Policy Institute
(PASPI)
<https://palmoilina.asia/>



Asosiasi Petani Kelapa Sawit
Indonesia (APKASINDO)
Indonesian Palm Oil Farmers
Association
<https://dpp-apkasindo.com/>



Asosiasi Petani Kelapa Sawit
Mandiri (APKSM)
Independent Palm Oil Farmers
Association



Forum Pemuda Sawit
Indonesia (FPSI)
Indonesian Palm Oil Youth
Forum
<https://www.forumpemudasawit.or.id/>



Gabungan Pengusaha
Perkebunan Indonesia (GPPI)
Indonesian Plantation
Entrepreneurs Association
<https://www.gppindonesia.com/>



Indonesian Planter
Society (IPS)
Masyarakat Planter
Indonesia
<https://www.ips-planter.or.id/>



Serikat Petani Kelapa
Sawit (SPKS)
Indonesian Oil Palm
Smallholders Union
<https://spks.or.id/>

EVENT LIST 2026

12 - 13 JAN

Palm Oil Economic Review and Outlook Seminar (R&O) 2026
Berjaya Times Square Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, MY

9 - 11 FEB

37th Palm & Lauric Oils Price Outlook Conference & Exhibition (POC2026)
TBC, Kuala Lumpur, MY

10 - 12 FEB

3rd International Simposium Ganoderma (ISGANO) 2026
Adimulia Hotel Medan, Sumatera Utara, INA

17 - 19 APR

Pakar Pertanian Expo (PPE)
MAEPS Serdang, Selangor, MY

22 - 23 APR

2nd HaiSawit Symposium (HASI) 2026
Hotel Bidakarta Jakarta, INA

23 - 24 APR

International Palm Oil Millers Conference (IPOMC) 2026
Royale Chulan KL, MY

6 - 7 MAY

16th PALMEX Indonesia 2026
Hall A1 & A2, Jakarta International Expo (JIEXPO), Kemayoran, INA

14 - 16 MAY

4th AgTech International Agro Expo
Perda Convention Centre, Penang, MY

25 - 27 JUN

4th AgTech International Agro Expo
Setia City Convention Centre, Selangor, MY

7 - 9 JUL

4th Technology & Talent Palm Oil Mill Indonesia (T-POMI)
Holiday Inn Bandung Pasteur, West Java, INA

13 - 15 JUL

11th International Planters Conference (IPC)
Royale Chulan Kuala Lumpur, MY

28 - 30 JUL

12th Indonesia International Palm Oil Machinery & Processing Technology Exhibition (INAPALM Asia)
Jakarta International Expo (JIEXPO) Kemayoran, INA

6 - 7 AUG

Asia Palm Oil Conference (APOC) 2026 | 15th PALMEX Thailand
CO-OP Exhibition Centre, Suratthani, THA

6 - 8 AUG

4th Sawit Indonesia Expo (SIEXPO) 2026
Pekanbaru Convention & Exhibition, Riau, INA

10 - 12 SEP

9th Malaysia International Agriculture Technology Exhibition (Agri Malaysia)
Malaysia International Trade & Exhibition Centre (MITEC), KL, MY

6 - 8 OCT

16th PALMEX Medan 2026
Santika Premiere Dyandra Hotel & Convention, Medan, INA

13 - 14 OCT

Oils & Fats International Congress 2026 (OFIC 2026)
Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, KL, MY

16 - 17 OCT

3rd Unlocking Revenue & Sustainability: Palm Carbon Emission Reduction | POMA Dinner
Genting Highlands, MY

7 - 8 NOV

4th AgTech International Agro Expo
Sabah International Convention Centre, Sabah, MY

17 - 18 NOV

5th World Palm Conference 2026 | 13th PALMEX Malaysia
Hall 4 & 5, Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, MY

PALM CARBON CONFERENCE 2026



Harnessing Carbon Opportunities for
Malaysia's Oil Palm Stakeholders

16 JUNE 2026

**MENARA FELDA,
KUALA LUMPUR**

www.malaysiapalmcarbon.com



Unlocking the Palm Bioeconomy Through Biofuels,
Biochar, Sustainable Products, CO₂ Removal Certificate

16-17 OCTOBER 2026

**RESORTS WORLD AWANA,
GENTING HIGHLANDS**

www.aseanpalmcarbon.com



Reducing Indonesia's Emissions Through
High-Impact Palm Carbon Offset Initiatives

To Be Confirmed



To Be Announced

www.malaysiapalmcarbon.com

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