

Particulars

About Your Organisation

1.1 Member Name

FEDEPALMA - National Federation of Oil Palm Growers of Colombia

1.2 Membership Number

1-0010-04-000-00

1.3 Membership Sector

Oil Palm Growers

1.4 Membership Category

Ordinary

1.5 Country

Colombia

2.0 Does your company or organisation produce, process, consume or sell any palm oil or any products containing derivatives of palm oil?

No

2.2 Please select all the sectors that best describe the business activities of your company or organisation, including your primary RSPO membership sector. You may select multiple sectors and will be required to complete the ACOP form for the relevant sectors

- I am a bank or financial institution that finances or supports companies or organisations that produce or manufacture palm oil, palm kernel oil or related products
- I am a conservation and environmental NGO supporting the sustainable development of the palm oil industry
- I am a social and human development NGO supporting the sustainable development of the palm oil industry
- I am an Affiliate member of the RSPO, indirectly involved in the palm oil industry

Affiliates

1. Operational Profile

1.1 What are the main activities of your organisation?

The National Oil Palm Growers Federation (FEDEPALMA), created in 1962, is made up of small, medium and large oil palm growers and palm oil mills, who operate on a business, associative or individual scale.

FEDEPALMA's purpose is to consolidate a competitive and sustainable Colombian palm agroindustry, bringing together, guiding, representing and defending Colombian palm growers in their sectoral interests, to contribute to the well-being of their communities and the progress of the country.

To do so, it promotes union interaction, provides updated economic and commercial information, encourages proper environmental and social management, develops value-added projects, and promotes technical assistance among its affiliates.

1.2 What activities has your organisation undertaken to promote sustainable palm oil, the RSPO and/or RSPO members in the reporting period?

Since 2018, the Federation has defined the Sustainability Strategy as a roadmap for the Colombian palm oil sector. Among the activities that Fedepalma has undertaken to promote sustainable palm oil production, and the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) standards, include:

Adoption and promotion of sustainability standards: Fedepalma encourages its members to adopt and comply with sustainability standards such as the RSPO, but also the recently adopted Aceite de Palma Sostenible de Colombia (APSCO) standards for plantation and the palm oil mill. This strategy is also moved by the Sustainability Index which works directly with the growers and mills to identify the baseline on sustainability adoption and generates the plans to close the identified gaps. As of 2022, about 52% of the growers have been assessed against the sustainability index.

Capacity building and training: Fedepalma conducts training programs and workshops for its members, growers, and industry stakeholders on best practices for sustainable palm oil production. This includes educating them about sustainability practices, responsible agricultural practices, biodiversity conservation, water management, and labor rights.

Research and development: Fedepalma invests in research projects and collaborates with academic institutions and other organizations to develop innovative and sustainable practices for palm oil cultivation. This includes projects related to biodiversity conservation, soil management, waste management, and greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

Advocacy and policy engagement: Fedepalma engages with government bodies, policymakers, and other relevant stakeholders to promote policies that support sustainable palm oil production. They participate in discussions, provide input on regulatory frameworks, and advocate for the recognition and integration of sustainability standards specific to palm oil within national policies.

Certification support: Fedepalma assists its members in complying with standards certification by providing guidance, facilitating audits, and promoting the benefits of certification. They help members navigate the certification process and encourage wider adoption of sustainability certification programs within the Colombian palm oil industry.

Collaboration and partnerships: Fedepalma collaborates with national and international organizations, such as the RSPO, other palm oil producer associations, NGOs, and consumer goods companies, to promote sustainable palm oil practices. This includes sharing knowledge, exchanging best practices, and working collectively towards the common goal of sustainable palm oil production.

These activities demonstrate Fedepalma's commitment to promoting sustainable palm oil practices and encouraging its members to adopt responsible production methods. It is important to note that the specific initiatives and priorities of Fedepalma may vary over time as the industry evolves and new sustainability challenges emerge.

This commitment empowered by the Sustainability Strategy lead the Colombian palm oil sector to achieve a sustainable production record of 28% of certified sustainable crude palm oil, corresponding to 491,132 Tons, and an important 21,000 hectares declared as high conservation value areas.

1.3 What percentage of your organisation's overall activities focus on palm oil?

100.0%

1.4 Did members of your organisation participate in RSPO working groups and/or taskforces in the reporting period?

Yes

1.5 Does your organisation have any past or on-going collaborations with public or private sector palm oil industry players to support them in their efforts to increase the production or consumption of certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO)?

Yes

1.6 How is your organisation's work on palm oil funded?

The Palm Development Fund Steering Committee (FFP) is the sectorial governance body responsible for ensuring the fund's adequate and efficient management. It is comprised of two representatives of the National Government and four representatives of the registered oil palm growers. The duties of the FFP Steering Committee include:

- Approving the annual budget of income and expenditures of the funds submitted by Fedepalma with the prior approval of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.
 - Approve the investments that Fedepalma and other association entities must make to provide services to palm growers.
 - Ensuring the correct and efficient management of the funds by Fedepalma and other association entities at the service of palm growers.
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2. Actions for Next Reporting Period

2.1 Please outline activities that your organisation will take in the coming year to promote the production or consumption of certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO)

Further developing and maturing of the sustainability strategy is key to differentiating Colombian palm oil towards the international market, and now, a more conscious domestic market.

The sustainability principles now materialized in two standards (plantation and palm oil mill) joined with the sustainability index from Cenipalma to evaluate the baseline and generate action plans to close gaps that will assure the farm-level adoption of sustainable production practices, but furthermore, looking to the near future, key requirements as deforestation-free supply chains and traceability will be sectorial efforts and commitments to direct resources and empower growers and mills with tools to comply with national and international regulations, but also those of their market drivers.

Cooperation is also an important component of the strategy. Articulating the Federation efforts with local authorities and NGOs will assure a full understanding of the challenges but also the needed response to attend them, including the allocation of resources but also the means to convey the Colombian sectoral commitment to achieve a palm oil agroindustry unique and differentiated.

Challenges and Support

1.1 What significant obstacles or challenges has your company encountered in the promotion of certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO)? What efforts has your company taken to address these obstacles or challenges?

- Awareness of RSPO in the market
- Difficulties in the certification process
- Certification of smallholders
- Competition with non-RSPO members
- High costs in achieving or adhering to certification
- Human rights issues
- Insufficient demand for RSPO-certified palm oil
- Low usage of palm oil
- Reputation of palm oil in the market
- Reputation of RSPO in the market
- Supply issues
- Traceability issues
- No challenges faced
- Others

Others

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1.2 In addition to the actions already reported in this ACOP report, what other ways has your company supported the vision of the RSPO to transform markets to make sustainable palm oil the norm?

- Communication and/or engagement to transform the negative perception of palm oil
- Engagement with business partners or consumers on the use of CSPO
- Engagement with government agencies
- Engagement with peers and clients
- Promotion of CSPO through off product claims
- Promotion of CSPO outside of RSPO venues such as trade workshops or industry associations
- Promotion of physical CSPO
- Providing funding or support for CSPO development efforts
- Research & Development support
- Stakeholder engagement
- No actions taken
- Others

Others

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1.3 If your company has any other publicly-available reports or information regarding its palm oil-related policies and activities, please provide the links here

Fedepalma has compiled the sustainability efforts, commitments and challenges in the first sectorial report since the launch of the Sustainability Strategy in 2018 to 2021. It can be found here:

<https://repositorio.fedepalma.org/bitstream/handle/123456789/141555/Informe%20Sostenibilidad%20DIGITAL%20INGL%20c3%89S.pdf?sequence=6&isAllowed=y>
