

# NURTURING SUSTAINABILITY AMBASSADORS

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Promoting Better Uptake  
of Certified Sustainable  
Palm Oil in India

**FINAL  
PROJECT  
REPORT**



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## 1. Introduction

The list of daily consumables for many of us includes items like biscuits, chips, chocolates, soap, toothpaste, shampoo, etc. All of these items use one common ingredient - palm oil or its derivatives. Palm oil is well established as an essential and ubiquitous ingredient in many FMCG products, personal care items, cosmetics, etc. This in turn has raised questions pertaining to methods by which this commodity is sourced and eventually traded and consumed.

Given its high demand and diversified use, palm oil has been and continues to be one of the primary factors of deforestation in some of the world's most bio-diverse forests, destroying the habitat of already endangered species. This forest loss coupled with conversion of carbon rich peat soils are throwing out millions of tonnes of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and contributing to climate change.<sup>1</sup> Indiscriminate clearing of rainforest has led to trans-boundary environmental impacts for a large community of people. India is the second largest consumer and biggest importer of palm oil – with the volume of 9.7 Million MT imports in 2019 and an estimated to be 23.6 Million MT for the current year.<sup>2</sup>

Since 2018, Centre for Responsible Business (CRB) has been working in partnership with Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) on promoting awareness about the need and opportunities for greater uptake of sustainable palm oil along the supply chain in India. As part of this shared vision, CRB and RSPO continue working together on a project that aims to identify champions for the uptake of certified sustainable palm oil in India – by engaging with *industry actors, media and youth (millennial) consumers*.

Over the course of one year, the project has worked towards (i) fostering industry stewardship for supporting uptake of sustainable palm oil in India; (ii) creating opportunities for engaging the media and (iii) engaging with youth (millennials) on Sustainable Consumption practices to increase demand for FMCG products using sustainable sources palm oil.

The current COVID -19 pandemic has disturbed not only the social and economic fabric of countries, but also the fundamentals of the global economic system. As an effect of the pandemic many economic activities have closed down, impacting businesses at large. The impacts of the pandemic are all pervasive leaving no sector unscathed, some of the other sectors include technology, entertainment, sports, textile, retail, e-commerce and the FMCGs.

The pandemic has had implications on the project activities and timelines. CRB with support from RSPO has worked towards mitigating the impacts on the project and work towards fulfilling the activities. The current report summarizes the activities and achievements towards the project objectives and highlights the future course of action in order to maintain the momentum achieved through this partnership in India.

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<sup>1</sup>WWF UK - <https://www.wwf.org.uk/updates/8-things-know-about-palm-oil>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.indexmundi.com/agriculture/?commodity=palm-oil&graph=imports>

## 2. Activities Update

In this section a brief update of the activities has been provided highlighting some of the achievements and also certain challenges.

### 2.1 Fostering Industry Stewardship

**Objective:** Engage and collaborate with FMCG companies and other ecosystem players (including NGOs, Associations and international organizations) with an aim to create framework conditions for supporting the uptake of certified sustainable palm oil in India.

**Current Status:** As part of the project partnership, a mapping of FMCG companies (RSPO and non – RSPO members), was done together with other ecosystem players. A set of criteria (ease of access, number of products manufactured that might have palm oil, total import of palm oil by that company, usage of palm oil in the products manufactured, market share, brand image) were used to shortlist them and initiate discussions. The aims of these interactions were to understand the nature and volume of use of palm oil; awareness/understanding (including technical elements) of certified sustainable palm oil (specifically RSPO); understand challenges in uptake/use of palm oil and to identify possible pathways for businesses to initiate strategic thinking and movement. India is a price-sensitive market and there is cut-throat competition especially in the edible oil segment. Companies perceive transition towards sustainable palm to involve substantial financial investment which might affect their position in the market. CRB and RSPO are both conscious of this factor and have pursued interactions with businesses/industry practitioners highlighting both the ‘business case’ of sustainable palm and importance of ‘shared responsibility’ for all the actors along the palm oil supply chain.

Until May 2020, dialogues through meetings/calls with the following businesses/organisations:

- Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Ltd. (KSDL)
- Karnataka Chemicals Ltd
- Wipro Consumer Care
- Bikaji Foods
- Dabur India
- Mother Dairy
- Havmor
- Sodexo
- Britannia Industries
- ITC
- Parle Products Pvt Ltd
- Amul
- Agrotech Foods Ltd.
- General Mills
- Bunge Ltd
- Balaji Wafers
- RSPL Ltd.
- IFFCO Allana
- Ecube Investment Advisors Ltd
- Sime Darby

- World Resources Institute (WRI)

CRB has also been able to maintain a light touch with some of the organisations which had been engaged in the earlier phase of the CRB-RSPO partnership (2018-19), including: Cargill, PEPSICO, Rabobank, Olam, HSBC, Galaxy Surfactants, Marico, Haldirams, UN Environment Programme, UNIDO, Climate Disclosure Project (CDP), IDH Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) and Federation of Biscuit Manufacturers of India.

In addition to have one-to-one meetings and detailed discussions with the above-mentioned businesses, CRB has also socialized the importance of sustainable palm oil among a larger community of FMGC companies and other end-user businesses in India. This has been done through CRB's participation in a number of events/platforms. A brief detail of these events is provided here:

- RSPO and CRB participated at the **Annual Globoil** event (world's leading edible oil & agri-trade conference) **held 23-24 September 2019 in Mumbai** - wherein CRB supported RSPO in showcasing it's work on sustainable palm oil in India and hosting a session. The Globoil event was useful in interacting with a wider community of relevant businesses and other stakeholders on the need for certified sustainable palm oil.
- CRB and RSPO also co-designed a **Business-Media-Youth dialogue in Mumbai on August 27, 2019** with partners including ISEAL and WWF-India. The objectives of the round table discussions were: how businesses in India could shift gears towards sustainable production in key sectors, the role of media in creating value for business and youth stakeholders in building a sustainable future and is the youth of India ready to lead the transition towards sustainable products and lifestyles.
- CRB participated at the **Annual RSPO Conference (RT17) held in Bangkok from 4-6 November, 2019**. The event provided a platform to explore synergies and collaborations with leaders from likeminded and relevant organisations. Rijit Sengupta, CEO, CRB was on the panel on 'Moving Towards Deforestation Free Supply Chains in India, China and Middle East'. The other panelists on the Cluster included Paul Thachil, Managing Director - Oils and Fats, IFFCO Group; Jin Zhonghao, Head of Markets Practice, WWF China; Ashish Saraf, President, Manorama Industries Ltd.; Morgan Gillespy, Global Director, Forests, CDP and Haskarlianus Pasang, Head of Sustainability Policy and Compliance, Golden Agri Resources.

**Remark:** As a result of the combined efforts over the last couple of years encouraging responses have been received from over 30 businesses and organizations –many of whom have engaged actively in discussions/dialogues on uptake of sustainable palm. It is evident from global trends (including the discussions at the RSPO RT17 held in Bangkok<sup>3</sup> - India is a key player for expanding activities and uptake of sustainable palm oil – and the above catchment/cadre of businesses and organizations can help advance

<sup>3</sup>Moving Towards Deforestation Free Supply Chains in India, China and Middle East-

<https://www.rt.rspo.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/PC9%20Moving%20Towards%20Deforestation%20Free%20Supply%20Chains%20in%20India%2C%20China%20and%20Middle%20East-compressed.pdf>

the discourse. There is data now to support that the uptake of RSPO certified palm oil has now increased (2019-20) to 200,000MT from less than 50,000MT in 2018-19 when this cooperation between CRB and RSPO started.

## 2.2 Media Engagement

**Objective:** This aspect of the project looked at involving media organizations and journalists over the period to improve their understanding on the issues and create broader awareness on the need and benefits towards sustainable palm.

**Status:** Earlier this year, in the month of January, world business leaders came together in Davos to commit to and pursue with greater rigor the agenda of ‘stakeholder capitalism’ as opposed to ‘shareholder capitalism’ thereby underlining the need for ‘businesses with purpose’. This need for businesses to create long-term and sustained value for shareholders has become ever so important in the prevailing times, when the world is reeling under the impacts of the COVID-19 crises. The situation calls for urgent action to rebalance our relationship with nature and develop an effective sustainable development trajectory. There is a need to draw lessons from the current situation and look at re-designing consumption and production patterns that will help in achieving long-term sustainability targets and aligning them with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Many businesses are re-configuring their policies and strategies for sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources, encourage adoption of sustainable practices among businesses and report on and advocate sustainable lifestyles in harmony with nature.

Media play a critical role in creating awareness and sensitizing businesses, consumers and other stakeholders about ‘businesses with purpose’ and promoting its uptake. Recognizing the importance of media, a webinar was organized on the theme “Businesses with Purpose Future-Proofing Businesses in a Post COVID-19 World” by CRB, RSPO and WWF-India on 16th April 2020. The Webinar aimed to reflect on the critical need for sustainable growth, adoption of an inclusive, economic, social and environmental sustainability model for future-proofing businesses post the pandemic along with raise awareness about sustainable consumption and production (SDG12) in India and initiate the necessary call to action (refer *Annexure 1* for detail agenda). The webinar was attended by over 30 participants. A report was finalized and disseminated widely. The webinar was covered in an article published by **Business Today on 13 May 2020** (<https://www.businesstoday.in/current/economy-politics/need-for-sustainable-development-in-post-covid-world-say-experts/story/403709.html>)

Based on the underlying theme two articles have been published by CRB<sup>4,5</sup>. A couple of other articles have been drafted and are to be published in June 2020.

**Remark: A few journalists/bloggers**, who were engaged over the course of the project have committed to continue writing articles, blogs, etc. to raise awareness and understanding on the need for sustainable palm oil supply chain in India. Further, articles on interest of agro-entrepreneurs involved with palm oil production, role of youth in demanding sustainable Palm Oil use by brands/businesses and implication on climate

<sup>4</sup><https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/towards-climate-smart-consumption-rijit-sengupta/>

<sup>5</sup><https://thelocalindian.com/environment/planetary-health-environment-protection-earth-21086>

change.

### 2.3 Engaging with Youth on Sustainability

**Objective:** Design and develop a Youth Fellowship Programme to identify and mentor/coach post-graduate students and young professionals in India on sustainable consumption and production/sustainable lifestyles (SDG 12) using Palm Oil as a case

**Status:**

#### **Young India Challenge**

CRB was 'Knowledge Partner' at the 10th Young India Challenge organized by Human Circle and supported by RSPO – held on 12-13 October 2019 in Delhi. The theme of the challenge was 'Sustainable Living' and the challenge was focused on 'Responsible Consumption and Production' and 'Climate Action'. The event was attended by over 500 youngsters passionate about sustainability. CRB as a knowledge partner supported the event in setting up a 'mentorship panel', which included experts from businesses/industry/NGOs who were invited to speak to the youth on their journey and guide them on their ideas related to the theme of the event. At the event, the Youth Fellowship for Sustainable Palm (YfS) was also announced. Keeping the theme of YIC in mind, a blog talking about Circular Approach towards the Sustainable Development Goals was also published ahead of the event <sup>6</sup>

#### **Asian Youth for Sustainable Palm Oil Summit (AYSPO) and RT17**

Bhavya Sharm, Programme Officer, CRB participated as a youth delegate from India in the RSPO RT 17 held on 03-06 November 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Youth delegation hosted their Inaugural Asian Youth for Sustainable Palm Oil Summit (AYSPO) held in collaboration with GIZ Thailand, PM Haze and RSPO on 03 November 2019. The summit was co-organized by RSPO, the People's Movement to Stop Haze (PM Haze), and GIZ Thailand.

The summit comprised fifty young people from China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand who gathered to discuss methods on co-creating their commitments towards a shared responsibility for making sustainable palm oil the norm. In their **joint statement** presented at the RT17, the **Asian Youth Delegation** called for urgent changes to be made, "We represent four billion people in the region. We grew up in an era of extreme change. We have seen our homes once a place of warmth to be on fire now, our air that gives us breath to be colored in grey haze and smog, our coastline where we have our livelihoods to be receding. And elsewhere in the world, we see glaciers melting, temperatures rising above the imaginable and typhoons destroying everything in its way. There is a need to act now."<sup>7</sup>

#### **Youth Fellowship for Sustainable Palm Oil (YfS)**

CRB in consultation with RSPO has designed and conceptualized a Youth Fellowship for

<sup>6</sup><https://youngindiachallenge.wordpress.com/2019/10/02/a-circular-approach-towards-the-sustainable-development-goals/>

<sup>7</sup>[https://www.rspo.org/news-and-events/news/asian-youth-voice-for-sustainability-at-annual-roundtable-we-want-a-future-full-of-hope-not-dismay?utm\\_source=RSPO+Secretariat&utm\\_campaign=5ac24183dd-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2019\\_08\\_28\\_06\\_58\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_b9946b99e0-5ac24183dd-196711117](https://www.rspo.org/news-and-events/news/asian-youth-voice-for-sustainability-at-annual-roundtable-we-want-a-future-full-of-hope-not-dismay?utm_source=RSPO+Secretariat&utm_campaign=5ac24183dd-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_08_28_06_58_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_b9946b99e0-5ac24183dd-196711117)

Sustainable Palm Oil (YfS). The objective of this programme rolled out in February 2020 is to offer one of its kind opportunities to youth (young professionals between 18 years to 25 years to take charge by engaging and shaping the sustainability/SDG agenda based on their own ideas and actions. The certificate fellowship pursues to engage youth specifically on SDG 12 (responsible production and consumption) and SDG 13 (climate action). A total of number of 11 candidates applied for the programme, of which four have been shortlisted through a rigorous selection process involving written application and interviews. The name of the shortlisted fellows along with their topics are as follows:

Name	Topic
Bhavya Arora	To develop a training module around SDG12 and 13 for high school students and promote use of sustainable palm oil
Punyasloka Panda	Integrate environment and sustainable development into the utilitarian mindset of an individual and a profit seeking company and work towards making eco -friendly behaviour a norm
Rashmi Subramanian	Leverage technology through a mobile application for tracking usage and avoiding wastage of day - to - day resources
Vagisha Anant	Promote Sustainable Travel, where travel not only includes going out of your city or state but also includes stepping outside your house and adopting sustainable practices while commuting or travelling

The selected candidates are being mentored by sustainability practitioners on the above ideas/actions relating them specifically to SDG12 and SDG13. For the purpose of mentoring, CRB and RSPO have identified four mentors from diverse backgrounds. As a YfS Fellow, the candidates will interact with their mentors (domain experts) to shape and refine their ideas/actions, gain exposure on the subject, publish their ideas through blogs and participate in national and international events in 2020 - like Young India Challenge, CRB 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference 2020, RSPO RT18, etc.

#### 2.4. Multi-stakeholder Awareness & Dialogues

**Objective:** RSPO was positioned as a Lead Partner at the **India and Sustainability Standards (ISS) 2019 Conference** – to lead dialogues on sustainable palm oil in India and enhance engagement with a wider multi-stakeholder group to raise awareness and drive potential partnerships

**Work undertaken:** RSPO was the lead partner for CRB’s 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Sustainability – India Sustainability Standard 2019 which was organized in Delhi from November 20-22, 2019. The report of this conference is available



at: <http://www.sustainabilitystandards.in/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/CONFERENCE%20REPORT%20compressed.pdf>

RSPO former CEO, Mr. Datuk Daryl Webber was a speaker in the Inaugural Session of the Conference together with leading thought leaders and policymakers like Suresh Prabhu, India's G20 & G7 Sherpa & Former Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil, Aviation, Government of India; Rajive Kumar, Chairperson, Uttar Pradesh Real Estate Regulatory Authority and former Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh; Bimal Arora, Assistant Professor, Aston Business School, UK and Honorary Chairperson CRB; Shoko Noda, Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), India and Manjit Singh, Member of Governing Body, CRB

RSPO also led two sessions on the second day of the conference which were;

- Market Transformation towards Sustainable Palm Oil in India, a plenary session comprising of CEOs and COOs of 5 major FMCGs and Industries. Mr. Darrel Webber, Ex- CEO, RSPO was a panelist in this session
- *Sustainable Palm Oil Dialogue in India* which also convened I-SPOC members (Second Members Meeting)<sup>8</sup> together with other industry stakeholders to highlight key activities under three thematic areas – government policy; supply chain and end consumer issues.
- An exclusive interview with Mr. Daryl Webber was also organized. The interview has been circulated and shared on different online platforms and also used for knowledge dissemination purpose <sup>9</sup>

**Remark:** CRB designed and developed flyers and posters (attached below) that were circulated on our social media handles and amongst members and networks.

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<sup>8</sup> <http://c4rb.org/images/CONFERENCE%20REPORT%20compressed.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <https://youtu.be/G2uLjYBCUMo>



2.5. **Enhancing visibility through online platforms:** CRB has been using its Website/twitter/FB/LinkedIn/Instagram handles effectively to disseminate content related to Sustainability, Sustainable Development Goals, Sustainable Palm Oil on a regular basis. Further, CRB has also used its social media handle to highlight the need/benefits from transition towards sustainable palm in India. It has published articles/press releases by partner organisations, including RSPO.

**INDIA AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS 2019**  
20-22 November | The Eros Hotel, New Delhi

Organised and Hosted by  
**CRB** CENTRE for RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS  
Enabling Change for Impact

## Market Transformation towards Sustainable Palm Oil in India

### Sustainable Palm Oil Dialogue

**Session Objectives**

- Understand the perspectives of industry leaders about possible opportunities for and benefits from greater uptake of sustainable palm oil in India
- Identify specific policy pointers to engage with the government
- Build broader awareness about the subject of sustainable palm oil and the role consumers can play
- Highlighting the role India can play in addressing the problem of deforestation in palm oil supply chain in South East Asian countries

**Date:** 21 November 2019  
**Time:** 0930-1100 hrs  
**Venue:** Eros Hotel, New Delhi

**Lead Partner:**  


**Co-host:**  
  
**Rabobank**

**Register Now** [www.sustainabilitystandards.in](http://www.sustainabilitystandards.in)

Time	Agenda Items
09:30-09:40	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b> Kamal Prakash Seth, RSPO
09:40-10:40	<b>Panel Discussion on 'Market Transformation towards Sustainable Palm Oil in India'</b> <b>Moderator:</b> Kamal P Seth, Country Head (India), RSPO <b>Panelists:</b> Darrel Webber, CEO, RSPO Dr A K Tyagi, Executive Director, Haldirams Paul Schullerwe, CEO and Head, Rabobank India Prakash Chawla, Chairperson, AAK Kamani Sandeep Bhan, COO, Sime Darby Oils (Invited)
10:40-10:50	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
10:40-10:50	<b>Closing Remarks &amp; Way Forward</b> Arindom Datta, Rabobank India
10:50-11:00	<b>Closing Remarks &amp; Way Forward</b> Kamal Prakash Seth, RSPO

Figure 1: Flyer for session on Sustainable Palm Oil Dialogue

**INDIA AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS 2019**  
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Enabling Change for Impact

## Sustainable Palm Oil Dialogue

### I-SPOC Meeting

**Session Objectives**

- Orient the newly joined members of I-SPOC
- Review and finalize the working group ToRs
- Draw up action plan highlighting ideas, objectives and activities to be undertaken from 2019-20
- Expand Coalition network to include potential members

**Date:** 21 November 2019  
**Time:** 12:00-13:30 hrs  
**Venue:** Eros Hotel, New Delhi

**Co-host:**  
**I-SPOC**

**Led by:**  


**Register Now** [www.sustainabilitystandards.in](http://www.sustainabilitystandards.in)

Time	Agenda Items
12:00-12:05	<b>Welcome and Context Setting</b>
12:05-12:25	<b>Opening Remarks by the Steering Committee Members</b> Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Rainforest Alliance World Wildlife Fund IDH The Sustainable Trade Initiative Hindustan Unilever AAK Kamani
12:25-13:10	<b>Working Group Activity: Action Plan on Promoting Sustainable Palm Oil</b> Working Groups: Government Policy, Supply Chain and End User

Figure 2: Poster for Second Members' Meeting of I-SPOC

OUR CONTENT ON TWITTER

**CRB @Centre4RespBiz · 28/11/19**  
 @Centre4RespBiz thanks our panelists Mr. Prakash Chawla, @AAKKamani, Mr. Paul Schuilwerve, @Rabobank, Mr. @darrelwebb, @RSPOTweets, Mr. Sandeep Bhan, @SimeDarbyOils & Mr. @Kamal\_Seth, @RSPOTweets, for sharing their keen insights on '#Sustainable #PalmOil Dialogue' at #C4RBISS2019



You and 5 others

**CRB @Centre4RespBiz · 20/11/19**  
 #HappeningNow @darrelwebb CEO @RSPOTweets during the inaugural session says, #Act urgently - take #credible steps to clean up your #supplychain and not when your customer demands it tomorrow #C4RBISS2019



CRB @Centre4RespBiz

**CRB @Centre4RespBiz · 08/11/19**  
 Join @Centre4RespBiz Conference sessions, 'The Sustainable Palm Dialogues':  
 -Market Transformation towards Sustainable Palm Oil (CXOs' speak)  
 -I-SPOC Meeting  
 Lead Partner @RSPOTweets, Session Co-host @Rabobank

Register now [bit.ly/33W3IAU](http://bit.ly/33W3IAU)  
 #C4RBISS2019 #SDGs



You and 4 others

**CRB @Centre4RespBiz · 03/11/19**  
 Our CEO, Mr. @RijitSengupta will be speaking at @RSPOTweets' global event in Bangkok this week, collaborating with others to drive forward sustainability in the palm oil sector. Join the conversation at #RT17 [bit.ly/2NJ61mH](http://bit.ly/2NJ61mH)



**RT17 2019**  
 Speaker  
**Rijit Sengupta**  
 Centre for Responsible Business  
 #RT17

Rijit Sengupta and Roundtable on Sustainabl...

**CRB** @Centre4RespBiz · 14/10/19  
@Centre4RespBiz is delighted to be the knowledge partner for @hctribe Young India Challenge and proud to announce the Youth for Sustainability Fellowship to engage #youth on #sustainable production & #consumption & #ClimateAction. Stay tuned for more updates!  
#SDGs #Y4SFellowship



Human Circle and 3 others

**CRB** @Centre4RespBiz · 14/10/19  
@Centre4RespBiz is delighted to be the knowledge partner for @hctribe Young India Challenge and proud to announce the Youth for Sustainability Fellowship to engage #youth on #sustainable production & #consumption & #ClimateAction. Stay tuned for more updates!  
#SDGs #Y4SFellowship



Human Circle and 3 others

**CRB** @Centre4RespBiz · 27/09/19  
#ExclusiveSessions  
@RSPOtweets will be co-hosting a session on 'CEOs Panel on Sustainable Palm Oil' at @Centre4RespBiz India & Sustainability Standards Conference 2019, 20-22 November 2019, EROS Hotel, New Delhi  
Register now [bit.ly/33W3IAU](http://bit.ly/33W3IAU)  
#C4RBISS2019



Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

**CRB** @Centre4RespBiz · 16/09/19  
#FeaturedSpeaker  
Hear @darrelwebb speak at @Centre4RespBiz 's Annual India & Sustainability Standards Conference 2019  
Register today [bit.ly/2z1hy6R](http://bit.ly/2z1hy6R)  
#C4RBISS2019



Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

**OUR CONTENT ON FACEBOOK**

**Centre for Responsible Business**  
14 October 2019

Centre for Responsible Business is delighted to be the knowledge partner for Young India Challenge and proud to announce the Youth for Sustainability Fellowship to engage #youth on #sustainable production & #consumption & #ClimateAction. Stay tuned for more updates! #SDGs #Y4SFellowship



**Centre for Responsible Business**  
11 October 2019

Centre for Responsible Business is the knowledge partner for 10th Young India Challenge <http://youngindiachallenge.com> which is being held at IIT Delhi on 12-13 October 2019.

The focus of this year YIC is on 'Sustainable Living' highlighting SDG -12 Responsible Consumption and Production and SDG- 13 Climate Action.

Enriching experience, designing&developing ideas & unlimited fun awaits!... See more



Young India Challenge |

Young India Challenge |

As per the National Employability Report for India, ...

As per the National Employability

**Centre for Responsible Business**  
21 November 2019

"One of the key #drivers for #market #transformation towards #Sustainable #PalmOil is the right price"

"#YoungIndia is driving #change towards Sustainable #Consumption & #lifestyles"

- Mr. Prakash Chawla, CEO, AAK KAMANI PRIVATE LIMITED - Edible Vegetable fats & Oils

At #C4RBISS2019 Day 2: Sustainable Palm Oil Dialogue



**Centre for Responsible Business** is with NIKHIL KAMANI and Kamal Seth.

21 November 2019

Kick starting day 2 of CRB Centre for Responsible Business's India & Sustainability Standards 2019 with plenary session: #Sustainable #PalmOil #Dialogue: #Market Transformation Towards Sustainable Palm Oil in India, led by Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) & co-hosted by Rabobank



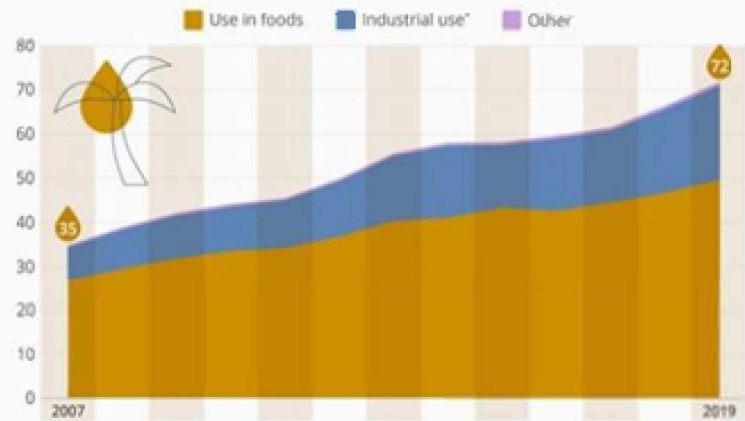
Centre for Responsible Business  
6 January · 🌐

The ever growing #demand of #PalmOil makes it more important for #consumers to prefer #products with #sustainable palm oil which makes good #environmental & #social sense for #growers.

#ClimateAction #Farmers #Deforestation #Habitats #AnimalWelfare #SDGs #FMCG #Sustainability

### The World's Growing Appetite for Palm Oil

Global consumption of palm oil (in million metric tons)



Fiscal years  
\* Includes agro-fuels, industrial lubricants and cosmetics  
Source: United States Department of Agriculture

statista

Centre for Responsible Business

31 Jan at 12:52 pm · 🌐

### #CallForApplications

CRB Centre for Responsible Business and Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) announce a Youth for Sustainability (Yfs) fell... See more



DOCS.GOOGLE.COM

### Youth Fellowship for Sustainable Palm Oil (Yfs)

[Learn More](#)

Centre for Responsible Business

31 Jan at 12:52 pm · 🌐

### #CallForApplications

CRB Centre for Responsible Business and Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) announce a Youth for Sustainability (Yfs) fell... See more



DOCS.GOOGLE.COM

### Youth Fellowship for Sustainable Palm Oil (Yfs)

[Learn More](#)

### 3. Challenges Faced

Engagements and interactions with India companies on the uptake of Sustainable Palm Oil or even introducing sustainability as part of their procurement strategy is a challenging proposition – as the **‘business case’** is weak or still evolving. One of the methods that CRB has employed is continuous engagement and sharing of information through a light-touch method. The **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference** of CRB presented a great opportunity to raise the visibility on the need for promoting greater sustainable palm oil uptake in India – and this needs to continue.

Considerable traction has been achieved through the **Sustainable Palm Oil Coalition** (I-SPOC, [www.indiaspoc.org](http://www.indiaspoc.org)) – which continues to expand its membership (and observers who are likely to become members). CRB and RSPO are founding members of this Coalition – with RSPO chairing the working group on ‘End Consumers’ (FMCG and retail) and CRB managing the I-SPOC Secretariat. Activities of I-SPOC are organized under three working groups – (i) Government Policy, (ii) Supply Chain and (iii) End Consumers. I-SPOC Members (over 20 businesses and organizations) have contributed to developing ‘annual action plan 20-21’ for each of these three working groups of this Coalition. RSPO’s continued support to strengthen this one of its kind Coalition, and going forward to collaborate with other regional palm oil coalitions is critical. Further, I-SPOC has the ambition to engage with producers/traders/exporters from Malaysia and Indonesia, so that there are discussions engaging all the actors in the supply/value chain, that go beyond the national borders.

The attention and uptake by journalists on sustainability issues, SDGs – and specifically Sustainable Palm Oil (except for issues around the imports from Malaysia) has been limited and engaging them hasn’t has just about started to yield some results. One of the reasons for less interest was that most part of the first few months of the partnership their attention was crowded by the national elections in India. However, the idea to expand the engagement to include online media, bloggers along with carefully selected journalists and media organizations has started to elicit some interest.

COVID19 has had some impacts on some of the activities, involving businesses engagement especially since February 2020. So, a strategy for CRB now would be to consolidate engagements with the businesses and organizations, which have shown interest in pushing forth the sustainable palm oil agenda. I-SPOC annual Action Plan 2020 for each working group has been finalized and will help raise the visibility on the subject among the business community (FMCG, processors, importers, traders, etc.) and other key stakeholders.

### 4. Thoughts on Partnership for 2020-21

A session on Sustainable Palm Oil (Sustainable Palm Oil Dialogue) will be designed and developed for the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of CRB Annual Conference to be held on the 28th of



30th October 2020. This year the Conference will be held virtually, given the current circumstances. RSPO has been a Lead partner in earlier editions of the Annual Conference that draws close to 700+ delegates over a course of three days. CRB hopes the engagement and support of RSPO to the Sustainable Palm Oil Dialogue in India would continue.

Further, CRB has also developed a proposal for continuing the partnership with RSPO in 2020-21. The proposal will cover the following areas (in addition to the Sustainable Palm Oil Dialogue for India – mentioned above):

- Strengthen engagement with Businesses (Sustainability Ambassadors)
- Provide support for effective operations of the secretariat of the Sustainable Palm Oil Coalition for India (I-SPOC)
- Design and develop capacity building modules for awareness generation and uptake of sustainable palm oil

## Annexure 1

Timing	Details
4:00 – 4:10PM	<p>Welcome by Rijit Sengupta, CEO, CRB</p> <p>&amp;</p> <p>Participants' Introduction</p>
4:10 – 4:20PM	<p>Setting the Context by the Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rijit Sengupta, CRB</li> </ul>
4:20 – 4:40PM	<p>Opening Remarks by Co-organisers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bhavna Prasad, Director (Sustainable Business), WWF India</li> <li>Kamal P Seth, Country Head, India, Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)</li> </ul>
4:40 – 4:50PM	<p>Question &amp; Answer</p>
4:50 – 5:20PM	<p>Perspectives from Businesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prakash Chawla, Board Member, AAK Kamani</li> <li>Ashish Saraf, President, Manorama Industries Limited</li> <li>Arindom Datta, Executive Director, Rural &amp; Development Banking, Rabobank</li> </ul>
5:20 – 5:30PM	<p>Question &amp; Answer</p>
5:30 – 5:40PM	<p>Perspective from a Senior Journalist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ananda Banerjee, Environmental Journalist, Author, Graphic Artist and Communications Specialist</li> </ul>
5:40 – 5:50PM	<p>Perspectives from an International Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Archana Datta, National Coordinator - South Asia, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP India)</li> </ul>
5:50 – 6:00PM	<p>Question &amp; Answer</p>
6:00 – 6:10PM	<p>Summary &amp; Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kamal P Seth, RSPO</li> <li>Bhavna Prasad, WWF India</li> </ul>