

Betting Big on Palm Oil

A dialogue on risks and opportunities of NMEO-OP

India International Centre, New Delhi

October 11, 2021

Agenda

9:30 AM	Registration
10:00 AM - 10:20 AM	Opening Session
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome remarks and Opening address by Chandra Bhushan, Chief Executive officer, International Forum for Environment, Sustainability & Technology (iFOREST)• Keynote address by Ms. Subha Thakur, Jt-Secretary, National Mission on Palm Oil. GOI Department of Agriculture and Cooperation & Farmers Welfare
10:20 AM - 11:30 AM	Session 1: Understanding the economics of Palm Oil expansion
	<p>Session objective: To build a holistic understanding of the economics of palm oil expansion in India, vis-a-vis alternative edible oils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the projected economic benefit of expansion planned under NMEO-OP?• Would a holistic assessment inclusive of socio-ecological-health costs change the economics of palm oil significantly? What has been the experience elsewhere?• Can traditional oilseeds help provide self-sufficiency? What is the cost economics of that? What are the key challenges in making that transition? <p>Discussion panel</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Chandra Bhushan</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Ashok Vishandass, Professor, Indian Institute of Public Administration• Mr. D. Raghunanadan, Delhi Science Forum & All India Peoples Science Network• Mr. Manu Kaushik, Management Consultant, ex-GCMMF• Dr. Sudhir Kumar Suthar, Associate Professor, JNU <p><i>Followed by Q&A round with the audience</i></p>
11:30 AM - 11:50 AM	Tea break

12.00 PM - 12.15 PM	Keynote address by Mr. Partha Sarthi Das , IA & AS Joint Secretary, GOI Department of Food and Public Distribution
12.15 PM – 1.45 PM	Session 2: Understanding the environmental and health costs of palm oil expansion
<p>Session objective: To address the environmental and social concerns relating to scaling up of palm oil cultivation in India:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is deforestation and adverse ecological impact a credible threat in India, if palm oil cultivation is contained to existing agricultural lands? How can the implications be quantified? • In light of the growing water scarcity in India, how sustainable are large scale palm oil plantations in India? • What are the possible implications of palm oil expansion on forest-dependent communities in the North-Eastern states and the Andamans? • Does the palm oil expansion plan align with the national forestry and climate change goals? Can palm oil cultivation be made sustainable. • What are some of the documented health impacts of increased palm oil consumption? Where does it stand compared to other commonly consumed oil types in India? <p>Discussion panel</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Ajay Vir Jakhar</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Madhuri Nanda, Rainforest Alliance, Sustainable Palm Oil Coalition • Dr. Prasenjit Biswas, Professor, NEHU • Mr. Ashish Bahuguna, Former Agriculture Secretary • Dr. Santosh Passi, Retired Professor, Nutrition Institute of Home Economics, Delhi University • Ms. Vishaish Uppal, Director, Governance, Law & Policy, WWF- India <p><i>Followed by Q&A round with the audience</i></p>	
1.45 PM - 2:00 PM	Closing Session
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing address by Ajay Vir Jakhar, Chairman, Bharat Krishak Samaj • Thank you note by Mandavi Singh, Programme Manager, iFOREST 	
2:00 PM	Lunch