

**MORE ABOUT FOOD SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION PATHWAY - PARALLEL SESSION:  
SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL: WHY NOT?**

**Organizer**

European Palm Oil Alliance with Wageningen University

**Background**

Palm oil is the most widely used vegetable oil in the world, but also contested for environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and social conflict it can be associated with. To address these issues the palm oil industry, governments, academics and civil society organisations are working together to make palm oil more sustainable. We want to draw attention to the fact that apart from issues related to sustainable production practices, service delivery, inclusion/exclusion of smallholders and appropriate auditing and actions upon non-compliance related to certified sustainable palm oil, sustainable palm oil does not have a future when uptake is not assured.

**Objective**

In this session we would like to introduce this topic by focussing on the progress of uptake in Europe, risks of leakages of unsustainable palm oil to markets such as China and India, the consumer perception of palm oil and the role of 'palm oil free' claims. The introductions will be provided by the European Palm Oil Alliance (EPOA), NGOs and scientists.

The introductions will be followed by an interactive activity where participants will discuss questions on the topic in separate groups.

**Draft program**

Introductions (30 minutes)

- Maja Slingerland Wageningen University: What is the problem? (7 minutes)
- Thijs Pasmans (Margarine Fats and Oil: MVO): Latest developments sustainable palm oil uptake in the world (7 minutes)
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- Margot Logman (European Palm Oil Alliance (EPOA)): Latest image on palm oil in Europe affecting uptake (7 minutes)
- Michelle Desilets (Orangutan Land Trust): How important are sustainable palm oil initiatives for her organisation? (7minutes)

Discussion and brainstorm in separate groups (45 minutes) on

- what are the hurdles that the audience sees for its uptake in the markets,
- potential pathways to alleviate these hurdles
- who needs to do what and how to communicate about it.

Reporting, conclusions and wrap up (15 minutes)

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