



ASIAN PALM OIL ALLIANCE (APOA)

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME - 2 || OCTOBER 2025



Solidaridad





Chairman's Message

Dear Readers

Welcome to the new edition of the APOA Newsletter. Palm oil continues to play a vital role in Asia's food security and livelihoods, and this month has been especially significant for APOA. In collaboration with Solidaridad Asia and The Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA), we released the white paper Path to Palm Oil Self-Sufficiency in India. This document presents a clear strategy to reduce India's dependence on imports, envisioning 50% self-sufficiency by 2047—an achievement that could save trillions in import costs while strengthening farmer incomes and promoting sustainability.



Another milestone was reached where APOA, the Council of Palm Oil Producing Countries (CPOPC) Indonesia, and Solidaridad signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding. This partnership sets the stage for greater producer-consumer collaboration, harmonisation of sustainability standards, enhanced traceability, and stronger inclusion of smallholders, with a special focus on India and South Asia.

Inside this newsletter, you will find the APOA Digest covering both the white paper release and the MoU signing, along with valuable insights into the vegetable oil industry. These collective strides demonstrate our commitment to building a palm oil sector that is resilient, responsible, and future-ready.
Happy Reading!

Atul Chaturvedi
Chairman
Asian Palm Oil Alliance (APOA)





APOA Digest

Charting India's Path to Palm Oil Self-Sufficiency and Strengthening Regional Sustainability

Palm oil is a cornerstone of the global edible oil sector, accounting for nearly 36% of worldwide vegetable oil consumption and forming an integral part of food, industrial, and household applications. Asia, as the largest consuming region, drives more than 60% of global demand, with India emerging as the single largest importer, sourcing 8.9 million metric tonnes (mmt) in 2023, which represents over 21% of global palm oil imports. Domestic production in India remains limited, meeting less than 5% of demand, leading to heavy reliance on imports from Indonesia and Malaysia. Recognising the strategic importance of palm oil for food security, economic growth, and rural livelihoods, the Asian Palm Oil Alliance (APOA) was established to coordinate efforts among major consuming nations—India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Nepal—to ensure responsible trade, sustainability, and inclusive value chains.

The recent initiatives, including the release of the Path to Palm Oil Self-Sufficiency in India white paper and the tripartite MoU with the Council of Palm Oil Producing Countries (CPOPC) and Solidaridad, are a response to several pressing challenges. Rising consumption trends in India, projected to reach 66.8 mmt of vegetable oil by 2047, driven by urbanisation, rising incomes, and increasing reliance on processed foods, risk a potential 40 mmt supply gap if domestic production is not scaled. Meanwhile, global sustainability expectations, fluctuating international prices, and environmental concerns make reliance on imports increasingly precarious. These steps by APOA and its partners aim to strengthen domestic production, ensure traceable and NDPE ((No Deforestation, No Peat, and No Exploitation) -compliant sourcing, promote smallholder inclusion, and harmonise sustainability standards across the region, thereby securing a resilient, climate-smart, and inclusive palm oil ecosystem for Asia.



India's Palm Oil Landscape and the Need for Self-Sufficiency

India remains the world's largest importer of palm oil. In 2023, the country imported 8.9 million metric tonnes (mmt), accounting for 21% of global palm oil imports. Despite the increasing domestic consumption, domestic palm oil production meets less than 5% of India's demand. With rising incomes, urbanisation, and growing reliance on processed and packaged foods, India's vegetable oil requirement is projected to reach 66.8 mmt by 2047. The white paper warns that without a deliberate strategy to expand domestic production, the country could face a 40 mmt supply gap in palm oil and other vegetable oils.



"India's pursuit of self-sufficiency in edible oils is both a national imperative and a collective responsibility," said Dr. B.V. Mehta, Executive Director of SEA. "Among vegetable oils, palm oil stands out for its affordability, versatility, and critical role in meeting both nutritional and industrial needs. Yet, domestic production of palm oil fulfils only a small fraction of our demand, leaving the nation heavily reliant on imports."



White Paper Highlights: Economic, Environmental, and Social Impact

The white paper released by APOA, SEA, and Solidaridad Asia highlights the enormous potential of palm oil across multiple dimensions:

1 Economic Resilience

Oil palm emerges as a highly profitable crop, delivering a Benefit-Cost Ratio (BCR) of 1.49, compared to 1.03 for rice and 1.13 for cotton. States such as Andhra Pradesh, which traditionally practice low-return crop cycles like rice-rice, rice-maize, or groundnut-based systems, can significantly improve farmer incomes by transitioning to oil palm cultivation—potentially boosting earnings by INR 30,000 to INR 1,50,000 per hectare per year.

Multi-Sectoral Growth 2

Expanding the palm oil value chain could generate a cumulative output of INR 15 trillion by 2047, creating nearly 6.9 lakh new employment opportunities annually. This growth is expected to empower rural households, enhance livelihood security, and stimulate regional economic development.

3 Environmental Sustainability

Palm oil's high yield per hectare translates into lower greenhouse gas emissions per unit of oil compared to alternatives such as soybean, sunflower, and rapeseed. In India, where cultivation occurs on non-peatland areas, emissions are among the lowest globally, averaging 1.44 kg CO₂ per kg of oil, versus 3.45 kg for soybean and 3.32 kg for sunflower. Adoption of Palm Oil Mill Effluent (POME) methane-capture technologies and improved land-use planning can further reduce emissions, positioning palm oil as a climate-smart oilseed option.

Food Security 4

Palm oil plays a vital role in ensuring food security, particularly in developing economies. Evidence from Indonesia and Costa Rica shows that shifting to oil palm cultivation increased household calorie intake by 13% and improved access to nutritious foods, underscoring its potential to enhance dietary diversity and food availability.



A Five-point strategy for self-sufficiency

The white paper outlines a clear five-point action plan to achieve self-sufficiency in palm oil by 2047:

1 Target high-potential areas expand the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) while strengthening irrigation infrastructure and providing support for rainfed regions, with a special focus on Northeast India.



2 Repurpose low-return lands approximately 16.08 million hectares of marginal rice-growing areas have been identified as suitable for oil palm cultivation, offering an opportunity to enhance yields and returns.

3 Enhance productivity and efficiency increasing yields from the current 2.4 metric tonnes/hectare to 4–5 metric tonnes/hectare will require high-quality planting materials, improved agronomic practices, and timely access to critical inputs.



4 Create an enabling ecosystem investment in rural roads, fresh fruit bunch (FFB) collection systems, and processing facilities are essential, particularly in the Northeastern states, where infrastructure gaps remain a major constraint.

5 Catalyse private sector partnerships private sector players already manage most nurseries and processing mills in India. Strengthening public–private partnerships under NMEO-OP, expanding processing capacity, and supporting technology transfer can significantly boost production while improving market access for farmers.





Key Recommendations for Implementation

The white paper further recommends:

- **Strengthening Research and Innovation:** Expanding regional Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research (IIOPR) centers.
- **Embedding Sustainability Standards:** Integrating the India Palm Oil Sustainability (IPOS) framework into NMEO-OP to ensure responsible production, traceability, and certification.
- **Promoting Regenerative Practices:** Improving soil health, ecosystem services, climate resilience, and crop profitability while supporting social well-being.
- **Encouraging Public-Private Collaboration:** Accelerating investments in nurseries, mills, and Centres of Excellence for training, input distribution, and mechanisation services.
- **Empowering Smallholders:** Ensuring access to credit, secure land rights, and advisory services to integrate farmers effectively into value chains.

The Tripartite MoU: APOA, CPOPC, and Solidaridad

On 24th September 2025, APOA, the Council of Palm Oil Producing Countries (CPOPC), and Solidaridad Network Asia Limited (SNAL) signed a historic tripartite MoU in Mumbai. The partnership aims to deepen producer-consumer collaboration and accelerate sustainability across the palm oil value chain.





The MoU creates a platform to:

- Harmonise national sustainability standards, including Indonesia Sustainable Palm Oil (ISPO), Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO), and India Palm Oil Sustainability (IPOS) frameworks.
- Strengthen smallholder inclusion and regenerative practices.
- Promote traceable, NDPE-compliant (No Deforestation, No Peat, No Exploitation) sourcing through digital traceability tools such as SoliTrace and remote-sensing solutions.
- Provide importer-facing dashboards for Indian buyers to enhance visibility across the supply chain.
- Establish a Joint Working Group co-chaired by APOA and CPOPC, with Solidaridad serving as the Technical Secretariat to oversee workplans, monitor progress, and coordinate communications and advocacy.

Why It Matters

1. **Stable supply and market confidence:** Coordinated dialogue addresses price volatility, logistics shocks, and policy risks affecting edible oil availability in India and neighbouring markets.
2. **Sustainability with inclusion:** Training in climate-smart practices, farmer organisation strengthening, and improved access to finance will enable smallholders to meet market requirements and improve livelihoods.
3. **Traceability and trust:** Pilots will scale digital traceability, define chain-of-custody rules, and build buyer-facing dashboards for verifying compliance.
4. **Policy coherence:** Partners will coordinate positions on global platforms and promote minimum sustainability criteria for public procurement to enhance market clarity and prevent discriminatory trade practices.





Looking Ahead

The white paper and MoU collectively signal a decisive step towards a self-reliant and sustainable palm oil sector in India and South Asia. By combining research, technology, market-based solutions, and cross-border collaboration, APOA and its partners aim to:

- Reduce import dependence and strengthen national food security.
- Improve farmer incomes and livelihood resilience.
- Expand traceable, NDPE-compliant, and climate-smart practices.
- Build consumer confidence and market stability.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate that economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion are not competing priorities—they are mutually reinforcing pillars of a resilient palm oil ecosystem. As India charts its path to 50% palm oil self-sufficiency by 2047, APOA, CPOPC, and Solidaridad are committed to ensuring that smallholders, communities, and consumers all benefit from this transformative journey.



Consumer Corner



Announcement

Palm Oil Conclave 2025 – Bhopal, 6 December 2025

Solidaridad, in partnership with the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA), is proud to announce Palm Oil Conclave 2025 under the banner of the Asian Palm Oil Alliance (APOA). This year's conclave is a key part of the Palm Oil Consumer Campaign, aimed at building awareness, dispelling myths, and strengthening consumer confidence in sustainable palm oil.

Theme: “Reshaping Perceptions through Palm Oil Dialogues – Health, Markets, Climate”

The event will spotlight the nutritional benefits of palm oil, its role in India's food security, and its contribution to sustainable growth. Through engaging discussions and networking, the conclave reinforces responsible palm oil consumption while connecting stakeholders across the value chain.

Event Details:

Date: Saturday, 6 December 2025

Venue: Hotel Courtyard Marriott, Bhopal (M.P)

Key Sessions:

Palm Oil Products Exhibition (from 9:30 AM)

Business Meet (10:30 AM – 12:00 Noon)

Press Conference (12:00 PM – 1:00 PM)

Networking Lunch (1:00 PM – 1:45 PM)

Conference Sessions (2:00 PM – 5:30 PM)



Who Should Attend:

- The conclave invites a wide range of participants:
- Palm oil producers, processors, and allied industries
- FMCG, food, cosmetics, and biofuel companies seeking reliable palm oil supply chains
- Health and nutrition experts
- Policymakers and government officials
- Media covering agribusiness, commodities, and market trends
- By bringing together industry leaders, policymakers, and consumers, Palm Oil Conclave 2025 strengthens the vision of a well-informed, sustainable, and thriving palm oil ecosystem in India.



Palm Cuisine



Palm Oil Khichdi



Looking for a comforting, nutritious meal that's quick to prepare and gentle on your palate? Our Palm Oil Khichdi brings together the goodness of dal, rice, and vegetables, enriched with the unique benefits of palm oil. Perfect for any time of day, it's a wholesome dish that nourishes the body and delights the senses.

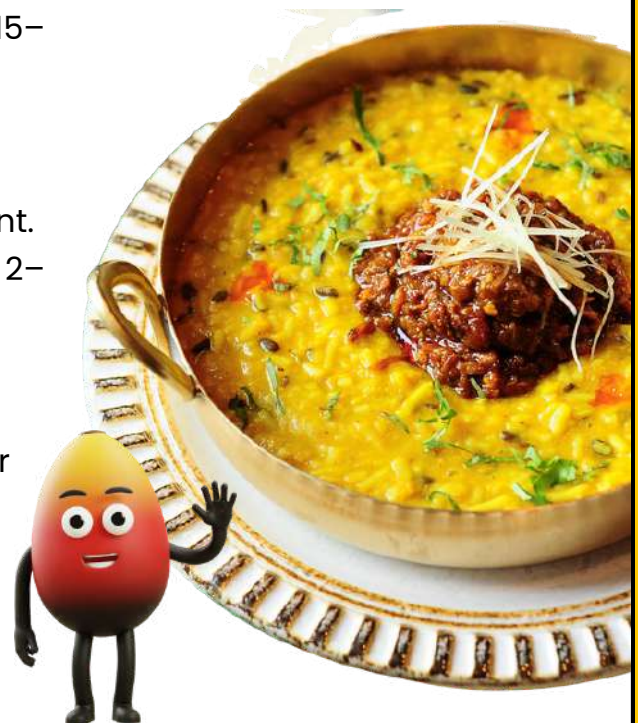
Ingredients

- ½ cup moong dal
- ½ cup rice
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 1 small tomato, chopped
- 1–2 green chilies, slit
- ½ tsp turmeric powder
- ½ tsp cumin seeds
- ¼ tsp hing (asafoetida)
- 2 cups water (adjust as per desired consistency)
- 1–2 tsp palm oil
- Salt to taste
- Fresh coriander leaves for garnish

Optional: Add chopped vegetables like carrot, beans, peas, or spinach for a colorful, nutrient-rich khichdi.

Instructions

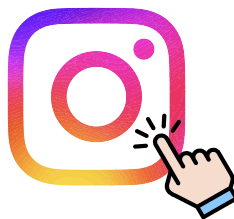
- Rinse moong dal and rice together and soak for 15–20 minutes.
- Heat palm oil in a pan or pressure cooker. Add cumin seeds and a pinch of hing.
- Add onions and green chilies; sauté till translucent. Add tomatoes and optional vegetables; cook for 2–3 minutes.
- Drain soaked dal and rice; add to the pan with turmeric and salt. Stir well.
- Add water. Pressure cook for 2 whistles or simmer for 20–25 minutes until soft.
- Open cooker, mix gently, garnish with fresh coriander. Drizzle a little extra palm oil for added flavor.





Across Social Media

Curious about palm oil and its role in our diet? Nutrition expert Dr. Nandita Iyer sheds light on the facts you need to know. From its nutritional benefits to its impact on health, she breaks down how palm oil can be a part of a balanced diet without compromising wellness.



Inside everyday products



Ingredients:

WHEAT FLOUR, **PALM OIL**, SALT, AND LESS THAN 2% SUGAR, HYDROLYZED PEANUT PROTEIN, ONION POWDER, CORNSTARCH, SPICES, WHEAT GLUTEN, POTASSIUM CHLORIDE, CHILI POWDER, TURMERIC, GARLIC POWDER, CITRIC ACID, SODIUM TRIPOLYPHOSPHATE, POTASSIUM CARBONATE, SODIUM CARBONATE, CARAMEL COLOR, DISODIUM GUANYLATE, DISODIUM INOSINATE, BAKING SODA, GUAR GUM, POTASSIUM IODATE.

CONTAINS: WHEAT AND PEANUT.
MAY CONTAIN MILK AND SOY.

Maggi instant noodles are known for their convenience and are commonly eaten as a quick meal or satisfying snack



**FLAVOURED
WITH PALM OIL**





Sunday, 5 October 2025

e-Paper | Corporate Insolvency Resolution



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New White Paper Charts India's Path to Palm Oil Self-Sufficiency by 2047

In Other News

by DC Correspondent

27 September 2025 9:03 AM

APOA advances coordinated, sustainable and efficient palm oil trade across Asia.

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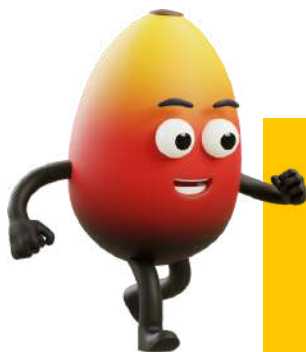
NEWS

APOA, CPOPC and Solidaridad sign MoU to boost sustainable palm oil collaboration in South Asia

The agreement establishes a formal platform to harmonise approaches, address market volatility and enhance smallholder inclusion

By BL Pune Bureau

Updated - September 24, 2025 at 09:03 PM | Pune/Mangaluru



**OIL
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NEWS**



Solidaridad



India's push for self-reliance in edible oils not a threat, says Malaysia PREMIUM

Kuala Lumpur still sees itself as key and long-term supplier of the edible oil, says MPOC CEO

By Gayathri G

Updated - August 10, 2025 at 10:00 AM. / Chennai



Behrinder Srini, CEO of MPOC

Malaysia does not see India's ambitious push for self-reliance in edible oils through the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) as a threat but as a strategic opportunity. The Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC) has welcomed the initiative as a forward-looking step to boost India's edible oil security, while reaffirming the role of

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AGRI BUSINESS

Indian importers ramp up palm oil purchases ahead of festival season

The recent reduction in import duty on crude edible oils to 10%, from 20%, provides "a little bit of relief" for consumers, though prices would have been higher otherwise, IVPA President Sudhakar Desai

By PTI
Updated - July 31, 2025 at 11:00 PM | New Delhi



Indian vegetable oil importers are ramping up palm oil purchases ahead of the festival season as declining global prices make it cost-effective to meet expected demand surge during the festive period, according to the Indian Vegetable Oil Producers' Association (IVPA).

The recent reduction in import duty on crude edible oils to 10 per cent, from 20 per cent, provides "a little bit of relief" for consumers, though prices would have been higher otherwise, IVPA President Sudhakar Desai told PTI in an interview.

The duty cut was reflected in loose oils within two days but it takes up to 25 days to reflect in packaged oils, he said, and added the IVPA welcomes the government's soon-to-be-notified new regulations on the vegetable oil sector.

The organised sector will not have any issue in implementing it unlike the unorganised sector.

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Also read



OIL PALM NEWS



OTAI expresses concern over 'no palm oil' campaign

These campaigns positioning palm oil as inherently unhealthy are not supported by scientific evidence, says association president Rajeev Churi

By BC Mangalore Bureau
Updated - August 11, 2025 at 08:44 PM | Mangalore, August 11



India's 2024 Dietary Guidelines, issued by the Indian Council of Medical Research - National Institute of Nutrition, reaffirm the role of palm oil when used as part of a balanced diet | Photo Credit: istockphoto

The Oil Technologists' Association of India (OTAI) has said that the "no palm oil" marketing campaign by some of the companies is misleading the public and weakening national efforts towards food security.

In a media statement, Rajeev Churi, National President of the OTAI, said these campaigns, which position palm oil as inherently unhealthy, are not supported by scientific evidence. Rather, they appear to be strategies aimed at gaining market differentiation.

India's 2024 Dietary Guidelines, issued by the Indian Council of Medical Research - National Institute of Nutrition, reaffirm the role of palm oil when used as part of a balanced diet. The guidelines also highlight tocotrienols (a form of vitamin E) role in reducing blood cholesterol.

It is recommended to rotate oils, such as palm, groundnut, sesame, rice bran, sunflower etc., to ensure a balanced fatty acid intake.

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AGRI BUSINESS

Edible oil imports up 5.55% in August, amid jump in CPO shipments to India

Edible oil imports rise to 16.21 lakh tonne in August

By BI Mangaluru Bureau

Updated - September 15, 2025 at 04:29 PM | Mangaluru, September 15



Edible oil imports recorded a 5.55 per cent increase in August driven by higher crude palm oil (CPO) shipments to India.

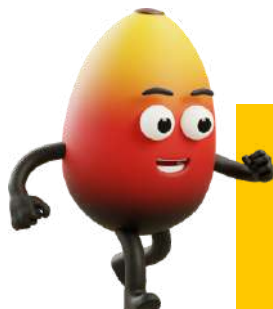
According to the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA), India imported 16.21 lakh tonne (lt) of edible oil in August 2025 against 15.36 lt in August 2024. The import of CPO, which contributes a major share in the total edible oil imports to India, witnessed a jump of 39.79 per cent in August. The country imported 9.79 lt of CPO in August 2025 against 7 lt in August 2024.

India imported 123.78 lt of edible oil during the first 10 months of the oil year 2024-25 (November-October) against 134.71 lt in the corresponding period of the previous oil year, registering a decline of 8.11 per cent. (This does not include imports from Nepal.)

India's CPO imports declined to 50.89 lt during November-August 2024-25 from 59.40 lt in the corresponding period of the oil year 2023-24.

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India can halve palm oil imports by 2047, says White Paper

Solidaridad Asia, in collaboration with the Solvent Extractors' Association of India and the Asian Palm Oil Alliance, has mooted boosting domestic production and achieving up to 50 per cent self-sufficiency.

By BI Mangaluru Bureau

Updated - September 27, 2025 at 10:06 PM



The five-point strategy calls for expanding NMEO-OP coverage, boosting irrigation in rain-fed regions, and repurposing low-return rice lands for oil palm cultivation. | Photo Credit:

Solidaridad Asia, in collaboration with the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) and the Asian Palm Oil Alliance (APOA), has released a research-backed white paper titled 'Path to Palm Oil Self-Sufficiency in India' providing a comprehensive strategy to reduce India's heavy reliance on palm oil imports, boost domestic production, and achieve up to 50 per cent self-sufficiency by 2047.

To achieve the goal, the white paper has suggested a five-point action plan. The first point stressed the need to expand the coverage of the National Mission on Edible Oils - Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) while simultaneously strengthening irrigation infrastructure and providing targeted support for rain-fed regions, with a special focus on North-East India.

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