



ASIAN PALM OIL ALLIANCE

Solidaridad



Bangladesh



Nepal



India



Sri Lanka



Pakistan

PHONE : (91-22) 35131729-35131730

E-MAIL : asianpalmoilalliance@gmail.com

WEB-SITE : www.asianpalmoilalliance.org



C/o. SEA OF INDIA

142, JOLLY MAKER CHAMBERS No. 2,
14th FLOOR, 225, NARIMAN POINT,
MUMBAI-400 021. INDIA

BUSINESS LINE MUMBAI, 13 MAY 2026

Asian Alliance welcomes Sri Lanka's move to lift ban on oil palm cultivation

Our Bureau
Mangaluru

The Asian Palm Oil Alliance (APOA) has welcomed indications that the Sri Lankan government is moving towards lifting the ban on oil palm cultivation, subject to final approvals and sustainability safeguards.

In a statement, APOA termed the move a positive and pragmatic step towards strengthening edible oil security, supporting rural livelihoods, reducing import dependence, and promoting science-based sustainable agriculture in Asia.

It noted that Sri Lanka continues to import substantial quantities of palm oil despite restrictions on domestic cultivation. At the same time, scientific and industry dis-

cussions in recent years have increasingly stressed the need for evidence-based policies and sustainable production frameworks.

BALANCED APPROACH

Quoting Atul Chaturvedi, Chairman of APOA, the statement said the Sri Lankan government's reported move to reconsider the ban reflects a balanced and forward-looking approach.

"The real challenge today is not prohibition, but ensuring sustainability through science, responsible governance, and stakeholder collaboration. Sustainable palm oil has a vital role in ensuring food security, affordable nutrition, farmer prosperity, and economic resilience across Asia," he said.

Highlighting the need for sustainability-led growth



and regional cooperation, Shatadru Chattopadhyay, MD, Solidaridad Asia, said Asia's edible oil future must be guided by sustainability, inclusiveness, and scientific evidence. Palm oil remains an essential commodity for food systems and livelihoods across the region, he said.

"The pathway forward lies in strengthening sustainable production practices, protecting biodiversity, support-

ing smallholders, and promoting transparent supply chains rather than moving away from the crop itself," he said.

Sri Lanka now has an opportunity to demonstrate how responsible cultivation models, sustainability frameworks, and stakeholder participation can coexist with environmental stewardship and economic development, he added.

BV Mehta, Secretary General of APOA, said many Asian countries are working to improve edible oil self-reliance while meeting sustainability commitments. Sri Lanka's policy rethink reflects the growing recognition that sustainable palm oil must form part of the solution for food security, higher farmer incomes, and economic stability in the region.