

# Rabobank's position on palm oil

## Towards Sustainable Palm oil

Palm oil is an essential ingredient in many foods. It's the most commonly used vegetable oil all over the world and the most efficient oilseed crop per hectare. However, palm oil production has a downside. It is associated with the clearing of tropical rainforests, a loss of biodiversity and violations of employment rights and human rights.

Rabobank is convinced that a sustainable palm oil sector can become the norm. That's why we are working on making the entire supply chain more sustainable and achieving future-proof solutions, from plantation to supermarket shelf. Rabobank is also working closely with a variety of partners such as the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to help deliver sustainability improvements in the sector step-by-step.

Our commitment to sustainable palm oil:

- Since 2004 we are a member and supporter of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). The RSPO aims to have the production of palm oil meet demanding social, economic and environmental criteria in order to ensure a sustainable sector.
- We only provide financing to clients who are a member of the RSPO, thereby committing themselves to meeting and reporting on the sustainability requirements of the RSPO. Clients are expected to undergo audits that assess whether the clients are meeting the RSPO's principles and criteria.
- We encourage clients to incorporate sustainability issues related to palm oil production in their procurement policy.
- If any controversies arise, we enter into a dialogue with the client to encourage improvements. This almost always leads to improvements being made. If not, the ultimate measure is to disengage from the relationship with the client.

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