

I-SPOC

SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL COALITION FOR INDIA (I-SPOC)

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



ABOUT I-SPOC

[The Sustainable Palm Oil Coalition for India \(I-SPOC\)](#) stands as a business-led, multi-stakeholder sustainability initiative dedicated to advancing the sustainable sourcing, production, trade, and consumption of palm oil and its derivatives across the supply chain. In the five years since its establishment, I-SPOC has become a pivotal platform for knowledge dissemination and capacity-building on sustainable palm oil in India. It has also effectively showcased the viability of multi-stakeholder platforms in addressing intricate sustainability challenges within emerging economies, particularly India. Conceived by four Founding Members, Centre for Responsible Business (CRB), Rainforest Alliance (RA), Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and WWF- India, the coalition currently has 35 members and 31+ Observers predominantly representing Businesses, FMCGs, International organizations, Financial Institutions amongst others utilizing palm oil in India on both international and national scales.

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN 2023

1. Coordination

- Members Meetings:** The 9th Members Meeting of I-SPOC held on April 12, 2023, in Mumbai, witnessed the participation of more than 20 organizations. During the meeting, CRB presented a comprehensive overview of the coalition's activities since the previous members meeting held in August 2022. Two knowledge products namely; [Policy Input Note on Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation - Production of Sustainable Palm Oil in India and Practitioner Guide on Mitigating Risks in Financial Agro-Commodities](#) were launched at the meeting. The summary report (https://indiaspoc.org/I-SPOC_9th%20Members%20Meeting%20Summary_April%202023.pdf) of the meeting was shared with all members and observers of I-SPOC.



- Capacity Building Workshop:** WWF in partnership with Indian Banks' Association (IBA) conducted an online Capacity Building Workshop on **Responsible Financing in the Forest and Agro Commodities Sector** on May 26, 2023. The workshop was attended by over 120 participants including IBA member banks.
- Traceability Action Group:** Under the Traceability Action Group, a group of experts from the industry were approached to voluntarily contribute to drafting a paper on **"Understanding and Applying 'Traceability' in the context of the Indian Palm Oil Value Chain."** The aim of this briefing paper is to help create awareness about the importance of traceability in the current context of the sustainable palm oil value chain. The draft of the briefing paper has been developed and shared with the experts and I-SPOC Founders for their inputs/comments. As a next step, the I-SPOC secretariat will be working on finalizing the paper (incorporating comments received from the experts and the Founders).

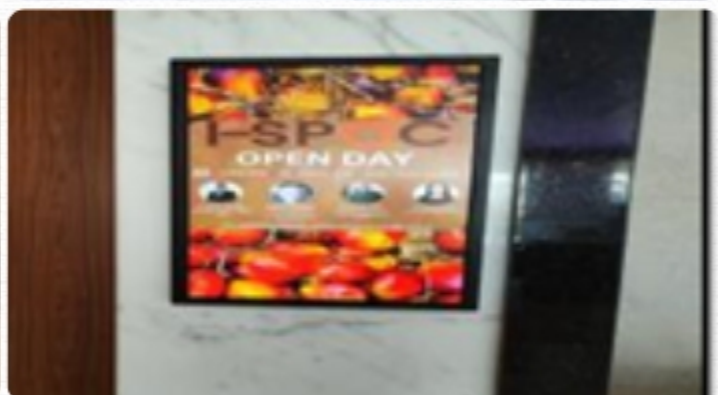
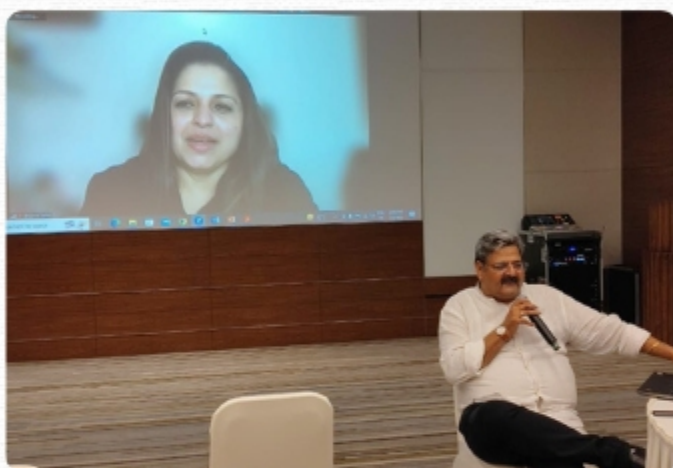
2. Outreach and Visibility

Events: I-SPOC was represented at various events in 2023

- Global Business Summit (GBS2023)-** On February 18, 2023, RSPO participated in a roundtable dialogue on multilateral trade and business during the Global Business Summit (GBS2023) in Delhi. Speaking among a panel of 11 experts, RSPO addressed India's potential in leading the transformation in the move towards a clean and green vegetable oil supply chain instead of being led.



- **World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS):** CRB along with RSPO participated in the annual summit organized by The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI) from 22-24 February 2023.
- **Massmerize 2023:** RSPO attended Massmerize 2023, organized by FICCI on 6th March 2023 which focused on sustainability as a theme.
- **I-SPOC Open Day:** I-SPOC conducted its first Open Day for 2023 on the 5th May 2023 in Mumbai. The event was attended by major palm oil sustainability experts from AAK, Patanjali Foods Limited, Galaxy Surfactants limited and Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC) amongst others. The experts shared with the participants about their sustainability journey, the transition to sustainable palm oil and highlighted the need of the market to transit towards more sustainable options.



- **Stakeholder Conclave on Sustainable Oil Palm:**

I-SPOC hosted a Stakeholder Conclave on Sustainable Palm Oil at The Claridges in New Delhi on May 24, 2023. Dr. Ashok Dalwai, IAS, CEO of the National Rainfed Area Authority, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, delivered the keynote address to over 50 participants. The event aimed to facilitate discussions and gather insights from key stakeholders, including government representatives, businesses, and policymakers, on integrating sustainability practices into domestic palm oil production in India. The discussions focused on the global vegetable oil scenario, the

linkages between National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct (NGRBC) and National Mission on Edible Oils- Oil Palm (NMEO-OP), along with looking at the role of various stakeholders in transitioning to sustainable palm oil. To read the summary report, please click [here](#).



- **Global Roundtable Conference Indian Vegetable Producers' Association (IVPA):** WWF along with RSPO sponsored a session and a booth/pavilion at the 2nd edition of the Global Roundtable Conference organized by the Indian Vegetable Producers' Association (IVPA) from August 4-5, 2023. CRB also participated in the event along with RSPO and WWF.



- **GLOBOIL 2023, Mumbai:** WWF India and RSPO attended the GlobOil India event on 28th-30th September 2023 in Mumbai.
- **India and Sustainability Standards 2022 or ISS 2023:** The tenth edition of CRB's sustainable business Conference (India and Sustainability Standards 2023) was held in a Hybrid format from 6th to 8th November, 2023 in Delhi.
- **WWF-India** organized a session on **"Aligning Sustainability to the Policy Landscape for Soft Commodities"** on **07 November 2023** at ISS-2023. The session provided an overview on the evolving global and national policy landscape pertaining to soft commodities and their supply chains while also highlighting the actions and achievements of India and the Global South regarding the regulations.
- **RSPO** hosted a session on **'Innovative Strategies for Advancing Sustainable Palm Oil Production in India'** at CRB's annual conference on **07 November 2023**. The brief objective of the session was to promote sustainability within the Indian palm oil industry by showcasing innovative practices, sharing success stories, and emphasizing the importance of environmental and social responsibility.



- **Rainforest Alliance (RA)** hosted a session on **'Driving Demand for Sustainable Consumption: Contributing to Mission LiFE'** on 8 November 2023 at ISS 2023. The brief objective of the session was to uncover opportunities and challenges in driving demand in the market for sustainable products in alignment with and contribution towards the objectives of Mission LiFE.



- **RSPO Annual Roundtable Conference on Sustainable Palm Oil (RT2023):** RSPO hosted its Annual Conference, RT in Jakarta from 20- 22 November 2023.
- **WWF-India's multi-stakeholder exposure visit to Indonesia:** WWF-India attended RT 2023 in Jakarta from 21-23 November 2023. They also did a visit from 21 November 2023 to 26 November 2023 in collaboration with WWF-Indonesia and RSPO. The various stakeholders present on the visit were smallholder representatives (from Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh), Assam government officials (Director of Agriculture and the Joint Secretary), and industry representatives (Godrej, 3F, LDC, Ajanta Soya, IVPA and Galaxy Surfactants). The visit included meetings with Apical group, Asian Agri, GAPKI, Ministry of Agriculture, Indonesia, Riau province government, and Amanah. The delegates also visited the Tesso Nilo landscape, Asian Agri Buatan mill and Amanah smallholder plantation.




- **The Sutra Summits:** CRB, RSPO and WWF-India attended the first edition of The Sutra Summit on 16 & 17 December 2023 organized by IDH.



3. Publications

- WWF-India and CRB worked on an article titled **'Greening agri-supply chains'** that highlights the necessity of governance of sustainable supply chains by collaboration between Global North and South in the G20 agenda which was published in 'The Economic Times'.
- CRB and RSPO finalized and launched the Policy Input Note on **'Towards a Policy Framework for Financing Sustainable Palm Oil in India.'**
- As part of knowledge products, I-SPOC has also finalized a briefing paper on **Aligning Sustainability Principles into Oil Palm Production Policy in India.** The primary purpose and target of the briefing paper is to provide a set of recommendations to the central and state government for aligning sustainability principles into the ongoing national palm oil production initiative. It will also be utilized to engage businesses and other relevant stakeholders across the country working on palm oil production and associated activities..



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