

# Sustainable Palm Oil Coalition for India

# I-SPOC

## Fourth Members' Meeting Report 15 December 2020



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## Background

The Sustainable Palm Oil Coalition for India (I-SPOC) organized its Fourth Meeting of Members virtually on December 15, 2020 from 3 PM to 5 PM (IST). The meeting was attended by Members and Observers of the Coalition. I-SPOC (<http://www.indiaspoc.org/>) is a business-led multi-stakeholder initiative created with the goal of promoting sustainable consumption, import and trade of palm oil and its derivatives along the supply chain. The coalition, through industry collaboration, aims to create broader awareness on sustainability issues within industry & consumers, facilitate multisector industrial dialogue, build & grow sustainable trade & partnerships through linkages with similar platforms and encourage engagement in policy dialogue for a supportive policy environment and regulation on sustainable palm oil.

I-SPOC was conceived by four (Founding) organizations; Centre for Responsible Business (CRB), World Wide Fund for Nature India (WWF-India), Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and Rainforest Alliance (RA) and was formally launched in September, 2018. Since its launch, 26 organizations/businesses have joined as members. New members that have joined the coalition in 2020 include businesses, associations, financial institutions such as Golden Agri Resources (GAR), India Home and Personal Care Industry Association (IHPCIA), RBL Bank, Reckitt Benckiser (RB) and Arhaa Food Manufacturers India Pvt. Ltd.

The objective of the Fourth Members Meeting was to officially launch the I-SPOC biennial report (2018-20), the Business Guide on Sustainable Palm Oil and the Value Proposition Deck. Each of these were developed by the Founding Members with collaboration of members. Review of activities undertaken by each of the three Working Group; Government Policy, Supply Chain and End Users, between January and December 2020 through presentation by Group Chairs was also undertaken. Members and observers were organized into two groups for a group activity to shape the 2021 work plan for each of the Working Groups.

The meeting agenda is attached as Annexure 1.

## Summary of the Proceedings

The meeting started with welcoming the participants by **Rijit Sengupta, CEO, CRB** and a round of introductions from all participants. While setting the context he gave a brief background of I-SPOC, describing the objective of the coalition, the addition of new members in 2020 and the way forward for the coalition in 2021. The welcome and introductions were followed by opening comments by the Steering Committee Members including **Mitesh Thakkar, Senior Procurement Manager, Oils and Fats South Asia, Hindustan Unilever** and **Dheeraj Talreja, President, India AAK Kamani** who highlighted the accomplishments of I-SPOC in the last two years, their journey as members of the coalition and their vision of I-SPOC for 2021.

The opening comments by the Steering Committee Members were followed by a virtual launch of the Business Guide on Sustainable Palm Oil developed jointly by RSPO and I-SPOC and the Biennial Report of I-SPOC: 2018-2020. Talking about the Business Guide, Mr. Kamal Prakash Seth, Country Head-India, RSPO gave a brief introduction of the document which was a joint initiative of I-SPOC, specifically by members of the End Users Working Group and RSPO. The document is a short guide, essentially targeting FMCGs or consumer goods manufacturers in India, and helps in simplifying the process as to how can an organization start its journey towards sustainable palm oil. The first section talks about the need to make a switch to sustainable palm oil, highlighting the benefits of making such a transition for the organization. The next section provides a step-by-step approach as to how to make the switch for willing businesses, including information on how to become a RSPO/I-SPOC member, developing sustainable procurement policy etc. The guide also focusses on internal capacity building of the organization around sustainable palm oil.

To mark the completion of two years of I-SPOC, the Biennial Report (2018-2020) ‘The Sharing Responsibility and a Common Vision – Sustainable Palm Oil Coalition for India’ was officially launched at the meeting. **Anjana Shanmugavel, Senior Manager, WWF-India** reiterated the key role that India plays in the context of sustainable palm oil and the role the members and the observers of the coalition can do to strengthen those efforts. The report provides an introduction to I-SPOC, the goal, objective, vision, mission and governance structure, including the Working Groups. The report also broadly covers the role of India in terms of sustainable palm oil, highlighting the work each of the Founding Member has been doing and the two-year journey of the coalition. In addition to that, a chapter on the business case and the actions that could be taken by different stakeholders in the value chain resonating to the ideals and principles of shared responsibility has been included. Lastly, the report highlights the work on sustainable palm oil by the 25 existing members and their journey as I-SPOC members. The report will be used as a tool to engage with external audience as well as a resource for the current I-SPOC members, depending upon where they are in their sustainability journey.

Rijit Sengupta thanked the members that had been involved in development of the business guide and the biennial report. He further added that the process of developing the two documents has been enriching. The inputs from members on the overview of their work had been useful and also included in the report. He added that this was the beginning of a long journey and the idea of the coalition is to develop the report on an annual basis. For developing the 2021 Annual Report, the group chairs would reach out to the members for their inputs in the second quarter of 2021. He concluded by highlighting that in the last two years as part of the coalition, which has 26 member organizations, an additional 25-26 organizations have also been engaged with, most of whom had joined the meeting as observers.

## 1. Presentations by the Working Groups

In the last meeting, the Coalition through its three Working Groups had defined and set qualitative and quantitative targets for the period January to December 2020. Each group chair presented their action plan listing the tasks that had been completed, that are currently underway and that might be pushed into the 2021 action plan. The summary of the presentation along with the discussions are presented below.

### 1.1 Government Policy Working Group

**Group Chair – Co-chaired by Anjana Shanmugavel, Senior Manager, WWF- India and Neha Simlai, IDH**

**Anjana from WWF India** set the context by giving a broad overview of the Working Group. She mentioned that the Government Policy working group is responsible for looking at ways in which the coalition can engage with the government to promote the import of sustainable edible oils including palm oil. In this context, the group currently has five members, Hindustan Unilever, Rabo Bank, CDP, AAK Kamani and Ecube Investment Advisors Pvt. Ltd.

She mentioned that the group had commissioned a study, based on a combination of secondary research and stakeholder consultations, in June 2020 to identify government led mechanisms to promote edible oil imports, particularly palm and soya bean oil. The precise scope was finalized with inputs from all Working Group members and a consultant, Mr. Rajeev Kher (superannuated as Commerce Secretary, Government of India in 2015, after a career of 35 years in the Indian Administrative Services) was brought onboard for the study. Furthermore, project inception workshop was held in June 2020, where the research methodology was finalized. Secondary research has been initiated with extensive literature review on policies, global and regional aspects, progress around technical standards, incentives and subsidies being conducted. Stakeholder consultations have also been held with key stakeholders across the value chain, including officials from relevant department,

representatives from businesses etc. She concluded by saying that the draft interim report of the study, documenting the secondary research along with excerpts and highlights from the stakeholder discussions, will be ready by January 2021. The next steps would be to present the initial recommendations of the study to the Working Group members for their inputs and further refinement.

**Neha Simlai, Program Manager, IDH** spoke about policy related work IDH had undertaken on responsible sourcing of palm oil in 2020. She added that the two co-chairs have been convening quite regularly to discuss about driving sustainability with the Government of India. She added that IDH along with WWF and RSPO has had regular interactions the Solvent Extractors Association (SEA), as it is a member. In addition, IDH has also been representing the work of I-SPOC and the Government Policy Working Group with the Lok Sabha Secretariat, NITI Aayog, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

She further mentioned that in order to maintain the neutrality of the coalition, both IDH and WWF have also been discussing broad agenda items that are tabled during each meeting. The idea has been to bring a common understanding around sustainability, what is perceived as responsibly sourced palm oil and the intersection that it is causing to the existing agendas of the government. She added that IDH has independently been undertaking a study to quantify palm oil import into India. The goal is to build a common understanding about specific import figures of palm oil to India as reported to Government of India, industry associations, private organizations based on company-wise import volumes and certification-wise import data. She finished by saying that IDH is hoping to build on its policy related work will help to develop a clarity on the incidence of regulation in the palm oil space in India that intersect with import in particular but also with government procurement leading into domestic production along with taking these conversations to relevant channels and stakeholders.

**Rijit Sengupta, CRB** mentioned that there are other areas of policy that are critical including sustainable public procurement and nutrition. He pointed out that a palm derivative is being used for Vitamin A fortification, which is a priority for the government as far as edible oils, milk and cereals is concerned. Thus, there exists a government interface in fortification. Taking a cue from that maybe the coalition can look at promoting sustainable palm oil derivatives in promoting food fortification leading to additional nutrition. Lastly, he said as a coalition, there is a need to increase understanding of the role of government as a policymaker and identify hooks that can be used to initiate conversations with the government.

**Shatanu Gotmare, Country Representative, GGGI-India** mentioned the scope of piggy-backing on schemes within the Atma Nirbhar Bharat to promote sustainable palm oil. On the domestic policy side, he mentioned the need to integrate state governments into discussions, since they implement these interventions at the ground level.

## 1.2 End Users Working Group

### Group Chair – Kamal Prakash Seth, Country Head – India, RSPO

**Kamal Prakash Seth** mentioned that the members of the Working Group participated as speakers and participants during various sessions of ‘Sustainable Palm Oil Dialogue India, 2020’ an event that was co-hosted by RSPO, CRB, WWF-India, The Better India and Youth for Sustainability (YfS India). A capacity building webinar on sustainable palm oil and its uptake was organized in October, 2020 for the Retailers Association of India (RAI). Toolkits and workshops for Palm Oil Buyers and Suppliers was also developed. P&G supported RSPO in developing a business guide on transitioning to sustainable palm oil. Two workshops on supply chain certification and systems and RSPO credits were also organized by the group in the second half of 2020.

The group has also taken up business-led representations to the Government to incentivize import and production of sustainable palm oil. The group members Nava Bharat, Manorama Industries and WWF-India have initiated the process to support the certification of oil palm plantations in Andhra Pradesh in a phased manner as per the RSPO Independent Smallholders Standard. To do this, the government authorities have been approached to form FPOs for Farmers Group formation. The initiative also looks at educating the farmers on sustainable agricultural practices along with connecting them to the market. The Telangana State Oil Federation has taken note of the work and approached RSPO to educate other farmers to make progress on the sustainable palm oil journey from the beginning.

On End Consumer Awareness for sustainable palm oil, after consultations with members of I-SPOC, the Working Group initiated a long term campaign. RSPO is leading this awareness campaign known as #KnowYourPalm. Within this campaign individual consumers in India are being educated about what is sustainable palm and what is non - sustainable palm. In context, the certified sustainable palm oil refers to three standards, RSPO (voluntary), MSPO (backed by the Malaysian government) and ISPO (backed by the Indonesian government). The campaign educates people not just on certified sustainable palm oil but also on sustainable palm oil. The campaign has reached out to over 6 million people and over 5,000+ people who have taken the pledge to ask their favorite brands for products made from sustainable palm oil. In the next phase of the campaign, the group will engage with mass influencers who will back the campaign and ask their audience to demand for products that are produced by using sustainable palm oil. In December 2020, RSPO and CRB have also supported the launch of 'Youth for Sustainability India Alliance'. The Alliance that has over 20 organizations as members and focuses on SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG13 (Climate Action).

### 1.3 Supply Chain Working Group

Group Chair – **Co-chaired by Dr. Paula den Hartog, Global Palm Oil Lead, Rainforest Alliance and Anjana Shanmugavel, Senior Manager, WWF-India**

Paula in her presentation highlighted that the Supply Chain Working Group focusses on the supply chain that essentially includes the processor, refiners and other middle section players. The group works on helping supply chain actors to embark on the journey of sustainable palm oil in the Indian context. The group in the year 2020 has worked on identifying those key actors in the Indian supply chain. These are entities procuring a large volume of palm oil and hence can be key players in transforming the market in India. An inventory of the existing players in the market has been created by the group, further profiling of the players to prioritize engagement with each of the organization has also been undertaken. In 2021, the Working Group would reach out to these companies and see the steps that can be undertaken to help them in their sustainability journey. The group has also started with the creation of a step wise approach/toolkit for refiners, processors to engage with them on their sustainability pathways. The group has started to identify downstream buyers in India to help them develop their business case along with creating links for learning and market pulls for procuring larger quantities of sustainable palm oil.

## 2 Group Activity – Break out rooms

Suggestions were sought from Members and Observers who were segregated into two Working Groups (Government Policy and Supply Chain + End Users) to shape the workplan of I-SPOC for next year. The focus was on the following areas: suggested priority actions, setting SMART targets for each Working Group, Strategic Partnerships and Collaborations along with any other suggestions. Each group was facilitated by the respective group chairs.

## 2.1 Discussions in the Supply Chain + End Users Working Group

Kamal Prakash Seth along with Dr. Paula de Hartog facilitated the discussions. They mentioned that the group reviewed the activities that were undertaken in 2020 and planned for the next year. The top priority for the next year was the access to data in the sustainable palm oil space is moving in India. From an End Users point of view, as pointed by **Mr. Ashish Bansal, Colgate Palmolive**, it is important to build confidence of businesses that the Indian market is moving towards sustainable palm oil. This can be done through road maps they can be followed for the next two to three years for this transition in the country. **Cristina Larrea, IISD** suggested that I-SPOC could facilitate a market research around sustainable palm oil consumption in India highlighting the enabling factors, limiting factors and the role of end consumers in taking the agenda forward. This will help the group in planning strategies for existing and new members. **Bhavna Prasad, WWF India** responded to Cristina's suggestion by adding that a consumer-based survey was conducted by WWF-India which covered the percentage of consumption of palm oil in India. The survey also mapped the consumers perception on using sustainable palm oil in their products.

**Girish Deshpande, P&G** added that a lot of data is available in the Annual Communication of Progress (ACOP) Report of RSPO members. A proper analysis of these can help understand different perspectives and journeys related to the transition to SPO by businesses. It could also assist in preparing a data-backed strategy/road map for India. To Girish's suggestion, Kamal mentioned that Bhavya Sharma from CRB is conducting an analysis on the ACOP data for 11 companies that are both RSPO and I-SPOC members. CRB and RSPO will be happy to present the findings to the larger group in the next members meeting of I-SPOC. Mr. Deshpande pointed out that the 2020 submission of ACOP data will be better than the previous years as ACOP has made it mandatory to fill in regional level data.

**Aswathaman Vijayan, Manager, Sustainability, ITC** alluded that as ITC they handle a lot of other agricultural commodities, however, palm oil does not come in the top 10 commodities procured by ITC. He added that ITC has been working towards sustainability covering other agricultural commodities and palm oil also is an important commodity for them. The challenge however lies in terms of reaching the goal of sustainable palm oil including the credibility and visibility of the product that is being procured from elsewhere. It is important to ensure that the procured palm oil is sustainable and traceable to the source. The KPI for I-SPOC could include creation of a portal or a database that provides visibility to the stakeholders who are already sustainable, who are on the road to sustainability, procurement process, practices etc. This visibility and data sharing will help other interested players to take the decision to transition to SPO.

**Mark Wong, Head Downstream Sustainability, Sime Darby** explained the levels of traceability. He mentioned that the first level of traceability includes traceability to a mill, followed by traceability to the plantations and farms from which palm are sourced. This second level is available through segregated RSPO certified products. He added that to ensure that the practices stay intact between certification and auditing period, a certified plantation in a mill goes through annual surveillance audit.

**Paula de Hartog, Rainforest Alliance** asked members and observers on the steps that the group can take in order to engage with the traders and refiners and initiate their sustainability journey. **Eleanor Spencer, Palm Oil Technical Advisor, ZSL** added that the Working Group can work on prioritizing data collection and traceability methods for different stakeholders. The group can actively seek out their supply chain connections and link them with existing traders and buyers to support and promote their sustainability journey. On traceability, Ms. Spencer mentioned that there are quite a lot of data sets that look at different aspects of traceability, the discussion could then be around to better utilize existing data sources for traders, suppliers and buyers as a way for them to look into their sourcing habits.

## 2.2 Discussions in the Government Policy Working Group

The group chair Neha Simlai, IDH initiated the discussion by giving an overview of the activities that the group has undertaken in 2020. For the first quarter of 2021, the group aims to develop two reports. One that will be looking at a stakeholder all the stakeholders in terms of regulatory authority and the topics of engagement that the group needs to initiate. This will be put together by WWF-India. The second report will be a joint effort by IDH and WWF-India on the KPMG work that IDH has commissioned. She added that both these reports will help in putting together I-SPOC to the larger narrative highlighting the activities that the group chairs are working on including the sustainable palm oil conversation with relevant actors, value proposition from I-SPOC perspective for relevant stakeholders and coming together of actors for the larger goal of sustainable palm oil.

**Anjana** further added that a fair amount of momentum has been built with the work that the group had set out to for 2020. Despite the restrictions that came in with the pandemic, the group was still able to proceed with a large extent of work that had been planned for the year. One of the limitations was the lack of face-to-face interactions with government officials. However, this would be addressed as they proceed further in the study. She concluded by opening the floor for members and observers to share their ideas/views on the role of government policy for 2021 in terms of promoting uptake of sustainable palm oil in India.

**Ian Suwarganda, Golden Agri-Resources (GAR)** spoke from the perspective of palm oil producers and producing countries. He mentioned that the Government of Indonesia is keen on palm oil diplomacy. All ministries/agencies that are focused on this including (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Coordinating Affairs of the Economy) have pushed for certification. Also, there is the Council for Palm Oil Producing Countries that now consists of Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia but there are six other countries that are in queue to become a member. Based on his discussion with Indonesian government he expects that India will start G2G outreach. They also want to spend money on positive palm oil communication. Lastly, GAR will continue to monitor and share any relevant updates on sustainable palm oil and the potential for partnerships and collaborations.

After Ian's suggestions and overview on the Palm Oil work in Indonesia, Neha added that all the group members and the chairs have been trying to build the conversations around suppliers and buyers of responsible palm oil in both these geographies. She further added that this is the only way to ensure a clear value chain is established along with representation to policy makers in India around growing need for South – South cooperation and regional stewardship of trade.

**Sritanu Chatterjee from the Embassy of Netherlands**, alluded that the embassy has been making representation to policy makers. Recently the embassy has been engaging with the NITI Aayog, considering SDGs are an essential factor a conversation with the group chairs around sustainable palm oil and I-SPOC will be vital. He added the need for different voices in the coalition and the I-SPOC agenda setting process. Mr. Chatterjee pointed out that the embassy is not a stand-alone entity but they would be happy to present the I-SPOC narrative to relevant government officials across different ministries.

**Dheeraj Talreja, AAK Kamani** added that India has the requisite infrastructure of refiners and processors that are needed to handle sustainable palm, and hence the transition to sustainable palm oil could be done easily. However, the challenge is with businesses, when they have got conventional palm, they know have takers for few of the fractions derived but not all the fractions.

This is what leads to refiners and processors downgrading multiple fractions for which there is no market. It further adds to the complexity of commercial viability as well as the scalability of that. Engaging with the SEA, the coalition can discuss about the transformation and find an outlet in an optimal manner in order to build demand for various fraction of palm oil. He concluded by saying that

the comparison between the existing premium quality and the sustainable palm oil however when it lands to India, it adds to the existing complexities as there are no outlet for all available fractions of palm oil affecting the scalability as well. Developing and executing a system of credit on sustainable palm oil for businesses should also be looked at by the coalition.

Taking forward Dheeraj's point, Neha alluded that it is important to think of the discussions not just from the singular lens of sustainability, but from the perspective of trade as well. Anjana added that it is important to align the agendas and ideas of the coalition with international priorities that have been set. With the Government of UK taking on the COP26 Presidency, India has been highlighted as a priority country particularly under the Sustainable Land Use and Commodity Trade (SLUCT) commodity trait campaign. This campaign aligns UK's work around their due diligence legislation that they are currently pushing for as well.

Commenting on I-SPOC to be using available international platforms or multilateral dialogues to bring attention to the role India could play in sustainable palm oil, **Monika Agarwal, Consultant, WRI India** referred to WRI's FOLU Project. In the project WRI is looking at strategies to support the screening of palm oil supply chain. As part of the project, they are also promoting the idea of 'healthy and sustainable diet'. The concept of healthy and sustainable diet looks at the demand side of oil consumption in India, the land-use and the habitat or the indigenous rights and the climate change aspects of things.

Listing the activities, the group aims to fulfil in 2021 on policy engagement, **Arindam Datta, Executive Director, Rural & Development Banking/Advisory, Rabobank** commented that most of the conversation of the members have been with the large players. Rabobank has been conducting conversations with private sector around sustainability specifically in the palm oil sector which is a critical area for the financial institution. He asked the members and the chairs regarding the Government of India taking a stand on palm oil and if the Government Policy Group has a starting point to initiate conversation with the policy makers in the country. To this **Neha Simlai, IDH** stated that from all the conversations they have had with the government agencies, it has been a conversation largely around access to nutrition, food security and on the volatile consumer market. The government official stand has not been palm oil specific, however there has been conversations with NITI Aayog and the Lok Sabha Secretariat where in the last four sessions of the parliament, 67 questions have been asked about palm oil largely focusing on domestic production but also around imports. This has been accompanied by discussion around climate change, increased deforestation amongst others.

**Shantanu Gotmare, GGGI** highlighted the two interventions that the group could undertake in 2021. Since COP-26 is scheduled for 2021, the group could consider providing input to the Ministry of Agriculture or Ministry of Commerce for sending recommendations to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), the nodal ministry for COP. He added that the group could talk about sustainability in International trade of palm oil. Secondly, while speaking from the Government's policy framework the domestic production of palm oil he added that the nodal agency is Ministry of Agriculture and for imported palm oil the nodal agency would be Ministry of Commerce or Ministry of External Affairs that should be targeted by the group. Lastly, he stated the need to keep in mind the financial aspect attached to the commodity. The financial viability of largescale transition to SPO needs to be studied in depth before being recommend to the government agencies. In terms of milestones the group could develop a working paper in quarter 1 of 2021 that will go to the ministries in terms of sustainable palm oil and the key stakeholders.

**Rijit Sengupta, CRB** mentioned that the planned activities should not just be based on what the Working Group is good at, but also be based on the demands and the needs of the government. Post

COVID the government might choose to focus only on its priority areas. As a coalition it would be important to align the planned activities with the government's priorities.

In conclusion, Anjana thanked the attendees and alluded to the key point that resonated through the discussion, of finding the right narrative that can be used to engage with the government. By January end, a small sub-group meeting with all the Working Group members will be held to share the draft analysis and recommendations from the two studies post which, the narrative and the final recommendations for the government shall be decided.

Neha Simlai taking a cue from Anjana added that the group aims to have data sets ready by January end and conduct a sub-group meeting in February to define the way forward. She mentioned the need to have a clear roadmap for the Working Group and the targets for the year 2021.

A stakeholder map is being developed by the group which will help in identification of relevant people across various sectors. By Quarter 2, the working group looks forward to engage with MoEFCC or the Ministry of Agriculture or the Department of Trade. As an immediate next step, the group members who have been engaging with relevant actors in the government could reconvene through monthly emails and follow-ups on the next steps that the members and the group together should undertake to keep the engagement going.

### 3. Presentation by Each Group and Feedbacks

**Bhawna Yadav, Regional Social and Human Rights Manager (South Asia and ASEAN), Reckitt Benckiser (RB)** who was part of the Supply Chain and End Users Working Group, gave a summary of the discussions. The summary is as follows:

- The group members emphasized on access to data on palm oil imports that will help the in developing an informed road map for the next two years
- The importance to develop a strategy for local farmers and traders to make a smooth transition to sustainable palm oil
- The group member also spoke about the market research that has been undertaken by the Founding Members of I-SPOC in order to understand consumer behavior
- However, it was felt that more effort needs to be put to create awareness on sustainable palm oil and build the consumer perception around it
- It was highlighted that the priority of the group should be on end users, rather than on individual consumers
- A suggestion made by the group members was to look at analyzing the available ACOP data from India's perspective. Lastly, the members felt that the need to be defined KPIs for all I-SPOC members, and greater engagement with traders, including capacity building on sustainable palm oil.

**Sneha Maheshwari, Programme Officer, IDH** gave a summary of the discussion in the Working Group on Government Policy. The summary is as follows:

- She highlighted that Ian spoke about the interest from the Indonesian government with an all hands on deck on palm oil diplomacy agenda. Talking about Indonesian Government, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Trade there is a council of palm oil producing countries including Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and 6 other countries all interested in G2G engagement on palm oil to pick up positive palm oil communication. The government also plans to pick up on positive palm oil conversations on palm oil
- Dheeraj said that India already has infrastructure to handle sustainable palm oil but there is a lack of uptake for some derivatives of sustainable PO. A system of credit for businesses would help

- in managing the issue. He also said that developing a green channel could help fast track the uptake of sustainable palm oil in India
- Shantanu suggested that perhaps it will also be good to develop inputs on sustainability in palm oil for the Government of India and how it will affect the revenue of the country. This will help us in initiating our engagement with the government and policy makers.

#### 4. Closing Remarks

The Closing Remarks were given by the four Founding Members of I-SPOC; CRB, Rainforest Alliance, RSPO and WWF – India

**Bhavna Prasad, WWF-India** thanked the attendees and mentioned that the meeting outcome had been positive. I-SPOC, as a group had a clearer guideline on the activities and interventions to be taken-up by the coalition in 2021.

**Kamal Prakash Seth, RSPO** spoke about the clarity on the need to focus on FMCGs and retailers to move the markets in India. The proposal in hand, is to merge the working group Supply Chain and End Users so as to make them more effective together. Secondly, the need to focus on domestic production of palm oil in India was clear and so was the case to discuss SPO with Government of India and state governments.

**Paula de Hartog, Rainforest Alliance** reiterated the clear indication on next steps for the work in 2021 and thanked all participants for joining and actively contributing to the discussions.

**Bhavya Sharma, Programme Officer, CRB** on behalf of her organization, Founding Members and Steering Committee members thanked the participants for their contributions. She also stated that an I-SPOC value proposition deck has been created and is available on the I-SPOC website. The deck has information about I-SPOC, the members of the Working Group and the steps to become a member. She also requested members and observers to share relevant resource material for the website.

**Annexure 1**

<b>AGENDA</b>	
<b>Fourth Members' Meeting</b>	
<b>I-SPOC</b>	
<b>Date: 15 December 2020 s</b>	
<b>Time: 1500hrs to 1700hrs IST</b>	
<b>Timings</b>	<b>Programme Details</b>
15:00 – 15:30	<p><b>Opening Session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Remarks by Two Steering Committee Members</li> <li>- Launch of 'Business Guide on Sustainable Palm Oil' (An RSPO &amp; I-SPOC document)</li> <li>- Launch of I-SPOC Biennial Report (2018/19-2019/20)</li> </ul>
15:30 – 16:10	<p><b>Review of the I-SPOC Working Group (WG) Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Update by Chair(s) of WGs on:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Government Policy</li> <li>(ii) Supply Chain</li> <li>(iii) End Users</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p>Discussions</p>
16:10 – 16:45	<p><b>Group Activity for Shaping ISPOC Workplan 2020-21</b></p> <p>Suggestions would be sought from Members and Observers segregated into the 2 Working Groups (Government Policy and Supply Chain &amp; End Users), to shape the workplan of I-SPOC for next year, specifically on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggested Priority Actions</li> <li>• Setting SMART Targets for each Working Group</li> <li>• Strategic Partnerships &amp; Collaboration</li> <li>• Any Other suggestion</li> </ul>
16:45 – 16:55	<p><b>Presentation by Each of the Groups &amp; Feedback</b></p>
16:55 – 17:00	<p><b>Concluding Session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Closing Remarks by Founding Members</li> <li>- Launch of the I-SPOC Deck</li> </ul>