

Palm Oil

Network Switzerland

Self-commitment of the members

Valid from 01.01.2025

Version 19/09/2024

By signing the joint declaration of intent of 19 September 2024, the members of the Palm Oil Network Switzerland (PNS) have declared their willingness to promote sustainable palm oil supply chains. In addition to the declaration of intent, the members undertake to implement and comply with specific measures with this voluntary commitment. The voluntary commitment is regularly updated and adapted. The latest version is binding for all PNS members until a newer version is adopted.

The voluntary commitment includes the following points:

1. Switch to certified sustainable palm (kernel) oil and fractions¹ and derivatives²

The members of the Swiss Palm Oil Network undertake to purchase, trade and/or process only certified sustainable palm (kernel) oil as well as fractions and derivatives in the following supply chain models^{3 4}:

- a. Crude and refined palm (kernel) oil incl. fractions: 100% SG/IP
- b. Derivatives: 100% MB/SG/IP

Deviations for fractions and derivatives may be tolerated on a transitional basis, provided that the lack of availability of the specified supply chain model can be plausibly demonstrated and a corresponding action plan to achieve the targets is submitted. A detailed written justification is required. Quantities that were not purchased at least in the MB supply chain model must be offset by the purchase of a corresponding number of Independent Smallholder Credits (ISH).

¹ Fractions include all palm-based products that have reached the first processing stage through physical separation or purification operations (palm stearin and palm olein).

² Derivatives are oils or fractions that have been modified by chemical reactions (including fat cleavage).

³ The currently recognised certification systems are the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and Bio Suisse in their respective current versions. For an explanation of the various supply chain models, see <https://rspo.org/as-an-organisation/certification/supply-chains/>

⁴ This also includes crude and refined palm (kernel) oil, its fractions and derivatives (e.g. creams, flavourings and mixed fats) contained in an ingredient.

2. Traceability and transparency

As part of their supply chain management, members are committed to ensuring the greatest possible traceability of the palm (kernel) oil, fractions and derivatives used.

In order to increase transparency, the members undertake to publish the origin of the palm oil they use or to make it available on justified request (e.g. in the form of lists of the corresponding mills or plantations).

3. Additional criteria & supplier dialogues

The members agree that the certification systems recognised by the PNS⁵ are minimum standards that need to be further improved. In this respect, the PNS is committed to improving the current guidelines and criteria of these standards. Where the standards are considered inadequate, the PNS defines focus topics and/or additional criteria. The members undertake to do this within the scope of their possibilities,

- a. conduct an annual documented dialogue with its suppliers, asking how and when which improvements in the respective focus areas have already been implemented or are to be achieved in the future,
- b. contribute to compliance with the additional criteria and improvements in the focus topics in their supply chains, for example by carrying out audits, supporting suppliers with corresponding measures, etc.

4. Reporting

The members undertake to report to the Secretariat by 30 June of the following year as part of an annual member survey on the following topics, among others:

- Quantities of total palm (kernel) oil used within the scope of 1. including fractions and derivatives, as well as the respective certified share including supply chain model,
- Information on traceability (mill, plantation, etc.) including volume and set targets with time specifications,
- Own commitment to the focus topics and additional criteria of the network as well as documentation and results of the supplier dialogues.

Scope of application

In view of the different requirements of the respective members, this voluntary commitment relates to the following areas of application:

⁵ The currently recognised certification systems are Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and Bio Suisse.

- Traders and importers: All imports into Switzerland, as well as goods physically traded in Switzerland
- Retail: All own brands that are produced on behalf of the respective retail companies for sale in Switzerland.
- Manufacturer: All production sites in Switzerland.⁶

Irrespective of the above-mentioned conversion targets and the scope of application, all members endeavour to implement the voluntary commitment globally wherever possible, i.e. also beyond the scope defined here, for example in foreign production facilities or in cooperation with manufacturers of third-party brands.

Basel, 19 September 2024

⁶ For members with production facilities outside Switzerland: If the member sells more palm (kernel) oil in Switzerland than it uses in Swiss production facilities and no proof of palm oil certification can be provided for the imported goods, the difference must be made up by purchasing Independent Smallholder Credits (ISH) .