



iFOREST

INTERNATIONAL
FORUM
FOR ENVIRONMENT,
SUSTAINABILITY
& TECHNOLOGY



Betting Big on Palm Oil

A dialogue on risks and opportunities of NMEO-OP

India International Centre, New Delhi

October 11, 2021

Agenda

9:30 AM	Registration
10:00 AM - 10:20 AM	Opening Session
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome remarks and opening address by Chandra Bhushan, Chief Executive Officer, International Forum for Environment, Sustainability & Technology (iFOREST)• Keynote address by Sanjay Agarwal, Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	
10:20 AM - 11:30 AM	Session 1: Understanding the economics of Palm Oil expansion
<p>Session objective: To build a holistic understanding of the economics of palm oil expansion in India, vis-a-vis alternative edible oils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the projected economic benefit of the expansion planned under NMEO-OP?• Would a holistic assessment inclusive of socio-ecological-health costs change the economics of palm oil significantly? What has been the experience elsewhere?• Can traditional oilseeds help provide self-sufficiency? What is the cost economics? What are the key challenges in making that transition?	
<p>Discussion panel</p> <p>Moderator: Siraj Hussain, Former Agriculture Secretary</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Ashok Vishandass, Professor (Applied Economics), Indian institute of Public Administration and ex-Chairman (CACP), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.• D. Raghunandan, Delhi Science Forum and All India Peoples Science Network.• Manu Kaushik, Management Consultant, ex-GCMMF• Industry representative <p><i>Followed by Q&A round with the audience</i></p>	

11:30 AM - 11:50 AM | **Tea break**

12:00 PM - 12:15 PM | Keynote address by **Partha Sarthi Das**, IA & AS, Joint Secretary, GOI Department of Food and Public Distribution

12:15 PM - 1:45 PM | **Session 2: Understanding the environmental and health costs of palm oil expansion**

Session objective: To address the environmental, social and health concerns relating to the scaling up of palm oil cultivation in India:

- Is deforestation and adverse ecological impact a credible threat in India, if palm oil cultivation is contained to existing agricultural lands? How can the implications be quantified?
- In light of the growing water scarcity in India, how sustainable are large scale palm oil plantations in India?
- What are the possible implications of palm oil expansion on forest-dependent communities in the North-Eastern states and the Andamans?
- Does the palm oil expansion plan align with the national forestry and climate change goals? Can palm oil cultivation be made sustainable?
- What are some of the documented health impacts of increased palm oil consumption? Where does it stand compared to other commonly consumed oil types in India?

Discussion panel

Moderator: **Chandra Bhushan**, Chief Executive Officer, International Forum for Environment, Sustainability & Technology (iFOREST)

Panelists:

- **Ashish Bahuguna**, Former Agriculture Secretary
- **Madhuri Nanda**, Rainforest Alliance, Sustainable Palm Oil Coalition
- **Dr. Prasenjit Biswas**, Professor, NEHU
- **Dr. Santosh Passi**, Retired Professor, Nutrition Institute of Home Economics, Delhi University
- **Dr. Sudhir Kumar Suthar**, Associate Professor, JNU
- **Vishaish Uppal**, Director, Governance, Law & Policy, WWF-India

Followed by Q&A round with the audience

1:45 PM - 2:00 PM | **Closing Session**

- Closing address by **Ajay Jakhar**, Chairman, BKS
- Thank you note by **Mandvi Singh**, Programme Manager, iForest

2:00 PM | **Lunch**

**Additional speaker confirmations are expected*

