



**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

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



11:30 AM – 11:50 AM	Tea break
12:00 PM – 12:15 PM	Keynote address by <b>Partha Sarthi Das</b> , IA & AS, Joint Secretary, GOI Department of Food and Public Distribution
12:15 PM– 1:45 PM	<b>Session 2: Understanding the environmental and health costs of palm oil expansion</b> <p><b>Session objective:</b> To address the environmental, social and health concerns relating to the scaling up of palm oil cultivation in India:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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?</li> <li>• In light of the growing water scarcity in India, how sustainable are large scale palm oil plantations in India?</li> <li>• What are the possible implications of palm oil expansion on forest-dependent communities in the North-Eastern states and the Andamans?</li> <li>• Does the palm oil expansion plan align with the national forestry and climate change goals? Can palm oil cultivation be made sustainable?</li> <li>• 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?</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion panel</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Chandra Bhushan</b>, Chief Executive Officer, International Forum for Environment, Sustainability &amp; Technology (iFOREST)</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ashish Bahuguna</b>, Former Agriculture Secretary</li> <li>• <b>Madhuri Nanda</b>, Rainforest Alliance, Sustainable Palm Oil Coalition</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Prasenjit Biswas</b>, Professor, NEHU</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Santosh Passi</b>, Retired Professor, Nutrition Institute of Home Economics, Delhi University</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Sudhir Kumar Suthar</b>, Associate Professor, JNU</li> <li>• <b>Vishaish Uppal</b>, Director, Governance, Law &amp; Policy, WWF-India</li> </ul> <p><i>Followed by Q&amp;A round with the audience</i></p>
1:45 PM – 2:00 PM	<b>Closing Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closing address by <b>Ajay Jakhar</b>, Chairman, BKS</li> <li>• Thank you note by <b>Mandvi Singh</b>, Programme Manager, iForest</li> </ul>
2:00 PM	Lunch

*\*Additional speaker confirmations are expected*

