

Particulars

About Your Organisation

1.1 Member Name

CONSEJO MEXICANO PARA EL DESARROLLO DE LA PALMA DE ACEITE, A.C. (COMEXPALMA)

1.2 Membership Number

8-0203-17-000-00

1.3 Membership Sector

Organisations

1.4 Membership Category

Affiliate

1.5 Country

Mexico

2.0 Does your company or organisation produce, process, consume or sell any palm oil or any products containing derivatives of palm oil?

No

2.2 Please select all the sectors that best describe the business activities of your company or organisation, including your primary RSPO membership sector. You may select multiple sectors and will be required to complete the ACOP form for the relevant sectors

- ☐ I am a bank or financial institution that finances or supports companies or organisations that produce or manufacture palm oil, palm kernel oil or related products
- ☐ I am a conservation and environmental NGO supporting the sustainable development of the palm oil industry
- ☐ I am a social and human development NGO supporting the sustainable development of the palm oil industry
- ☒ I am an Affiliate member of the RSPO, indirectly involved in the palm oil industry

Affiliates

1. Operational Profile

1.1 What are the main activities of your organisation?

Among the activities stated in the statutes of the Mexican Council for the Development of the Oil Palm (Consejo Mexicano para el Desarrollo de la Palma de Aceite A.C., COMEXPALMA) that are being conducted, the following can be mentioned:

- I. Nationally representing the leading actors in the productive chain of oil palm in Mexico, striving towards achieving its integrated development, while also seeking to optimize and amplify the coordination between producers, the industry, and, generally, between all the stakeholders related directly or indirectly to the oil palm productive chain, such as the federal, state, and municipal governments, as well as financial, academic, or research institutions.
- II. Advocating for an increase in productivity and production of oil palm, as well as promoting the planting of this crop, improving it alongside the commercialization and industrialization of the flesh and oil. These measures are taken in order to make this activity profitable and competitive, following sustainability and environmental protection criteria.
- III. Participating in the determination and direction of programs and financial support for its associates in coordination with private entities and the Federal, State, and Municipal governments.
- IV. Performing all kinds of acts and operations and to subscribe credit instruments under the terms of the General Law of Credit Instruments and Operations and all kinds of documents, including the granting of powers of attorney, as well as in general to perform any kind of activities that may be necessary for the fulfillment of the corporate purpose of the company.
- V. Purchasing, selling, leasing, subleasing, and managing all kinds of movable and immovable property, which are necessary for the fulfillment of the purpose of the corporation.
- VI. Promoting the integration of State Oil Palm Councils, as part of the operational structure of the National Council itself.
- VII. Promoting technological development in both agricultural production and oil palm industrialization.
- VIII. Developing technical assistance and training programs for agricultural producers.
- IX. Promoting and managing financing that will enable members to obtain loans on favorable terms to boost their growth and productivity.

1.2 What activities has your organisation undertaken to promote sustainable palm oil, the RSPO and/or RSPO members in the reporting period?

We continue to work with the Foundation that was created with the support of the oil palm agri-food chain for the protection of the La Encrucijada biosphere: "Unión de Palmeros del Soconusco, Amigos de la Encrucijada A.C.". With the support of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER), the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) and the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP), 196,000 oil palms have been removed from the La Encrucijada National Protected Area by October 2023.

Along with SEMARNAT, CONANP and SADER, among other stakeholders in the oil palm agri-food chain, COMEXPALMA is a member of the working group in charge of analyzing the Preliminary Draft of the Official Mexican Standard for National Protected Areas, which has had 14 working meetings to date.

We conducted free courses for smallholder oil palm growers on "Good Agricultural Practices for Sustainable Palm Oil Crop Production" taught by a trainer accredited by the RSPO Smallholder Trainer Academy master training, with the aim of demonstrating the importance of RSPO certification for smallholder oil palm growers.

COMEXPALMA collaborated in the OPTIPALMEX project which aims at achieving inclusive and sustainable optimization of Mexican palm oil production through innovation, structuring and the organization of the industry's stakeholders. This initiative was promoted by the French company PalmElit and the Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), in conjunction with Mexican organizations.

The Chair of COMEXPALMA, alongside local business organizations, approached the certification division of RSPO Latin America to conduct one or more courses for group managers on the certification of smallholder palm growers in the coming year.

1.3 What percentage of your organisation's overall activities focus on palm oil?

100.0%

1.4 Did members of your organisation participate in RSPO working groups and/or taskforces in the reporting period?

Yes

1.5 Does your organisation have any past or on-going collaborations with public or private sector palm oil industry players to support them in their efforts to increase the production or consumption of certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO)?

Yes

1.6 How is your organisation's work on palm oil funded?

Managing financial support from the Federal Government with programs aimed at oil palm cultivation and participating in the determination and direction of such programs and supports for its associates in coordination with the Federal, State and Municipal Governments.

2. Actions for Next Reporting Period

2.1 Please outline activities that your organisation will take in the coming year to promote the production or consumption of certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO)

All efforts will be made for RSPO Latin America to conduct one or more group manager courses for the certification of small producers.

COMEXPALMA will continue working with the Association of Palm Tree Producers of Soconusco, Friends of La Encrucijada (Unión de Palmeros del Soconusco, Amigos de la Encrucijada A.C.). to safeguard the Encrucijada biosphere. COMEXPALMA will further provide training on good agricultural practices for the sustainable production of oil palm, with the aim on certification of smallholder palm growers.

We will further collaborate in the review of the preliminary draft of the Official Mexican Standard on National Protected Areas led by the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT).

Key information related to palm oil sustainability in Mexico will continue to be uploaded to our YouTube channel.

Challenges and Support

1.1 What significant obstacles or challenges has your company encountered in the promotion of certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO)? What efforts has your company taken to address these obstacles or challenges?

- ☒ Awareness of RSPO in the market
- ☐ Difficulties in the certification process
- ☒ Certification of smallholders
- ☐ Competition with non-RSPO members
- ☒ High costs in achieving or adhering to certification
- ☐ Human rights issues
- ☐ Insufficient demand for RSPO-certified palm oil
- ☐ Low usage of palm oil
- ☒ Reputation of palm oil in the market
- ☐ Reputation of RSPO in the market
- ☐ Supply issues
- ☐ Traceability issues
- ☐ No challenges faced
- ☐ Others

Others

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1.2 In addition to the actions already reported in this ACOP report, what other ways has your company supported the vision of the RSPO to transform markets to make sustainable palm oil the norm?

- ☒ Communication and/or engagement to transform the negative perception of palm oil
- ☐ Engagement with business partners or consumers on the use of CSPO
- ☒ Engagement with government agencies
- ☐ Engagement with peers and clients
- ☐ Promotion of CSPO through off product claims
- ☒ Promotion of CSPO outside of RSPO venues such as trade workshops or industry associations
- ☐ Promotion of physical CSPO
- ☐ Providing funding or support for CSPO development efforts
- ☐ Research & Development support
- ☒ Stakeholder engagement
- ☐ No actions taken
- ☐ Others

Others

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1.3 If your company has any other publicly-available reports or information regarding its palm oil-related policies and activities, please provide the links here

www.comexpalma.org

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX_gwBa4f0g4z0Cgd17CZaw/featured