

Position of Socapalm

An article published in [De TIJD](#), on 3 June 2021, focuses on the palm oil industry and certain players active in Asia and Central Africa, such as the Socfin Group in Cameroon.

The article refers to a recent report published by Human Rights Watch on the palm oil sector in Indonesia and to an article published in the Dutch newspaper de [Volkskrant](#) on 29 May 2021.

Following the publication of this article, we regret that de Tijd did not contact the Socfin Group in Cameroon to check the allegations made by de Volkskrant and to ensure balanced and verified information for its readers.

We therefore want to clarify the situation and provide further information on both the sector and the responsible management demonstrated by the Socfin Group in its operations:

Palm oil is the world's most productive vegetable oil crop. This is also the reason why it is the most consumed oil globally, representing 35% of global consumption although it only covers 10% of the planted area.

[RSPO](#) certification ensures a sustainable palm oil production. Its principles and criteria contribute to minimizing the negative impact the oil palm culture may have on the environment thanks to its zero-deforestation commitment and its respect for the rights of the employees and communities in the vicinity of the plantations.

- Currently, almost 20% of the palm oil produced globally is RSPO certified.
- At the end of 2020, the Socfin Group had already RSPO certified 50% of its oil mills and its goal is 100% certification of all mills.

Simultaneously, the production from the industrial plantations and smallholders progressively contributes to the improvement of the food security in those regions and subregions.

- In Cameroon, for example, it is Socapalm's mission to ensure the country's self-sufficiency in vegetable oil demand. Currently, Socapalm is responsible for 50% of the estimated national production, which is fully sold on the local market at a price fixed by the government.

And, contrary to the image depicted in this article, Socapalm, a subsidiary of the Socfin Group in Cameroon, wants its palm oil and rubber production operations to be to the benefit of all: its employees, smallholders and communities, by improving their living conditions. This is an integral part of the Socfin Group's mission: to initiate or boost long-term socio-economic development of isolated rural areas, while strengthening and protecting communities' rights, quality of life and the environment.

[Click here](#) for more information on Socapalm's commitment to sustainable development in Cameroon.