Thai Union Responsible Sourcing of Palm Oil

Background

Palm oil is a versatile oil crop, used in many food, cosmetic and pharmaceutical applications. When grown responsibly, palm oil is the most efficient of all oil crops, producing more oil than any other vegetable oil crop in a similar sized land area. For this reason, it should be included in product formulations as an option. However, when not grown responsibly, the planting and growing of oil palm has been linked to deforestation, destruction of peat lands, destruction of habitats for fauna, displacement and negative impact on native title holders, and human rights abuses of workers at plantations, mills and processing facilities.

Synergies

This policy should be read in conjunction with Thai Union's Responsible Sourcing Policy; Agricultural Raw Material Sourcing Guideline; Suppliers' Business Ethics and Labor Code of Conduct and Human Rights Policy.

Policy

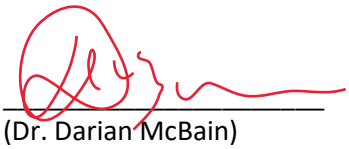
All palm oil for Thai Union branded products, including value added products and aquaculture feeds, shall come from certified sustainable sources, such as those certified by the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) or equivalent. From the end of 2021, mass balance supply chain RSPO certification or a higher level of certification (segregated or identity preserved) will be accepted, with a preference for segregated or identity preserved. By 2025 all palm oil sourced shall meet segregated or identity preserved RSPO or equivalent requirements.

Palm oil shall not originate from areas of deforestation. The producer shall ensure legal use of land and water, and respect of the needs and rights of smallholders and indigenous people as well as protection of workers' health and rights.

Thai Union seeks to eliminate modern slavery including forced labor, child labor, bonded labor and human trafficking, from its supply chains. Any supplier found to be in breach of the Thai Union Supplier Code of Conduct or Human Rights Policy will be suspended pending an investigation and remedial action plan where required.

Thai Union is committed to full traceability back to the source. All palm oil should be traceable to the mill, and where possible the plantation or smallholder. Priority will be given to sources of fully traceable palm oil and continuous improvement of environmental and social outcomes.

We commit to publishing an annual progress report against our commitments from 2021.

Issued by 

(Dr. Darian McBain)
Group Director, Sustainability

Dated: 31 March 2021