

Take responsibility

Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) overview guide

Enable the positive impact of sustainable palm oil

LRQA



Palm Oil

Palm oil is the most commonly used vegetable oil globally, with estimates from the WWF indicating that it is present in almost 50% of all packaged products readily available in supermarkets. It is used in various products, including bakery items, processed foods, chocolate, personal care products, cosmetics, shampoos, and many other things. Due to its unique properties, it is difficult to substitute with other oils. One hectare of palm plantation can produce up to eight times more yield than comparable oils such as rapeseed, sunflower and soya.

Sustainability

Impact and Sustainability

The increase in global demand for palm oil has led to the expansion of palm oil plantations, this has caused and continues to cause deforestation which creates an adverse impact on biodiversity and the management of primary forests. The expansion of palm oil implantation has also led to the displacement of local communities and the economic exploitation of workers' rights to fair pay and acceptable welfare standards. However, when grown sustainably, palm oil production has many benefits, including safeguarding of the environment, local communities, employees, and wildlife. Promoting sustainable palm oil practices helps to ensure these positive impacts are maximised.

Research indicates that consumer behaviour is changing, and individuals are becoming more ethically driven. Stakeholder pressure is driving organisations to do more to demonstrate their commitment to minimising the environmental and social impact of their operations. The changing dynamic is resulting in a greater focus on sustainability across the global food supply chain.

Regulatory pressure

The European Commission has implemented Regulation EU 2021/ 1119, known as the EU Climate Law. By the end of 2023, the Commission will introduce a legislative proposal for a sustainable EU food system that will apply to all actors in the supply chain operating in or supplying into the EU market. This decision is expected to impact the commercial practices of organisations in other global markets as the EU is the largest global market for agri-food products, and there is a commitment to encourage other nations to adopt similar practices.

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What is RSPO?

The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) is a trade body that has established a set of economic and social criteria that companies must adhere to in order to produce and source Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO). The RSPO was formed by a group of stakeholders, including palm oil producers, processors, traders, consumer goods manufacturers, retailers, banks, and NGOs, who recognised the need for a global platform to promote the production and use of sustainable palm oil.

The RSPO's mission is to encourage the growth and use of sustainable palm oil by promoting sustainable practices in the production of palm oil, supporting the development of sustainable supply chains, and raising awareness among consumers about the importance of sustainable palm oil.



In 2020, approximately

20%

of all palm oil produced was certified by RSPO.



Why LRQA?



Local & global expertise

We have a global presence to match your location, thanks to our team of skilled auditors worldwide. Our local service is backed by a shared commitment to excellence, making our services consistent on a global scale.



Beyond compliance

Our evaluators are experts in their respective industries and are paired with your business requirements to guarantee that we enhance your system through a comprehensive and reliable audit.

Working with you to target every aspect of certification and training

We have worked across the food sector for many decades, aiding in the creation, development, formulation and enhancement of food safety and GFSI standards. Our experts are trained in numerous areas, from sustainable and responsible sourcing and customised assurance programs, through to quality control.

Furthermore, we help our clients negotiate a rapidly changing risk landscape through our complete range of assurance and training services. Accredited certification to the core quality, environmental and health & safety standards helps you demonstrate to your stakeholders that your organisation has effectively implemented its management systems, making you a trusted supplier, employer, and partner.

Food Safety

World-leading food safety, traceability and sustainability certification and assurance programmes help ensure your business produces, manufactures, and sells safe products to the highest standards, consistently.

BRCGS
FSSC 22000

[Find out more →](#)

Quality, Environment and Health & Safety

Deliver customer satisfaction, reduce your environmental impact, and build a healthier and safer workplace with independent management systems certification.

ISO 9001
ISO 14001
ISO 45001

[Find out more →](#)

Ethical Trade

We recognise the importance of ethical practices in the food sector for building trust and ensuring responsible and sustainable food production. Prioritising ethical practices can enhance your reputation and help build customer loyalty.

SMETA

[Find out more →](#)





Fresh thinking

About LRQA:

Bringing together unrivalled expertise in certification, brand assurance and training, LRQA is one of the world's leading providers of food safety and assurance solutions. Working together with farms, fisheries, food manufacturers, restaurants, hotels, and global retailers, we help manage food safety and sustainability risks throughout supply chains and have become a leading global assurance provider.

We're proud of our heritage, but it's who we are today that really matters, because that's what shapes how we partner with our clients tomorrow. By combining strong values, decades of experience in risk management and mitigation and a keen focus on the future, we're here to support our clients as they build safer, more secure, more sustainable businesses.

From independent auditing, certification and training; to technical advisory services; to real-time assurance technology; to data-driven supply chain transformation, our innovative end-to-end solutions help our clients negotiate a rapidly changing risk landscape – making sure they're shaping their own future, rather than letting it shape them.

Get in touch

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