



Contributions of
guatemala's palm oil
agribusiness to the
**COUNTRY'S
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

2021





CONTRIBUTIONS OF GUATEMALA'S PALM OIL
● AGRIBUSINESS TO THE ●

COUNTRY'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT | 2021

This publication presents a compilation of the economic impacts of the palm oil agribusiness in Guatemala, a list of agro-industrial practices for the sustainable production of palm oil, and commitments and actions adopted in relation with labor, human rights, environmental and social aspects addressed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development promoted by the United Nations, through which direct and indirect contributions are made to 12 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

The information is based on data provided directly by **GREPALMA** members, sectoral information updated to 2021 and official statistics. Likewise, evidence that **GREPALMA** has learned from its direct relationship with its members is considered, as is secondary information that has been generated by sector stakeholders.

Ensuring that the sector remains a national and international benchmark in the sustainable production of palm oil is our organizational vision, which is why we will continue to pursue ongoing improvements in the palm-growing sector and will continue to advance steadily along this route, to contribute through our sector to the comprehensive development of the regions where oil palm is grown.

Everything that may help build and strengthen the sector is welcome, as it supports efforts to continue to bring wellbeing and development for Guatemala.

Greetings from **GREPALMA**

PROMOTING EFFICIENT, PRODUCTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE PROCESSES

2 ZERO HUNGER



Goal
2.4

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Goal
6.3, 6.4

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Goal
9.4

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Goal
12.4, 12.5, 12.6

Palm cultivation in Guatemala has seen the progressive incorporation of agricultural and industrial practices aimed at sustainability, the implementation of continuous improvement processes, backed by qualified human resources, efforts of modernization and installed capacity. This set of elements has led to the achievement of increasingly efficient production of Guatemalan palm oil, guiding the sector to operate under principles of a circular economy.

All this contributes to Guatemala remaining a world benchmark in productivity and sustainability.

AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

that improve production and contribute to the conservation of the environment

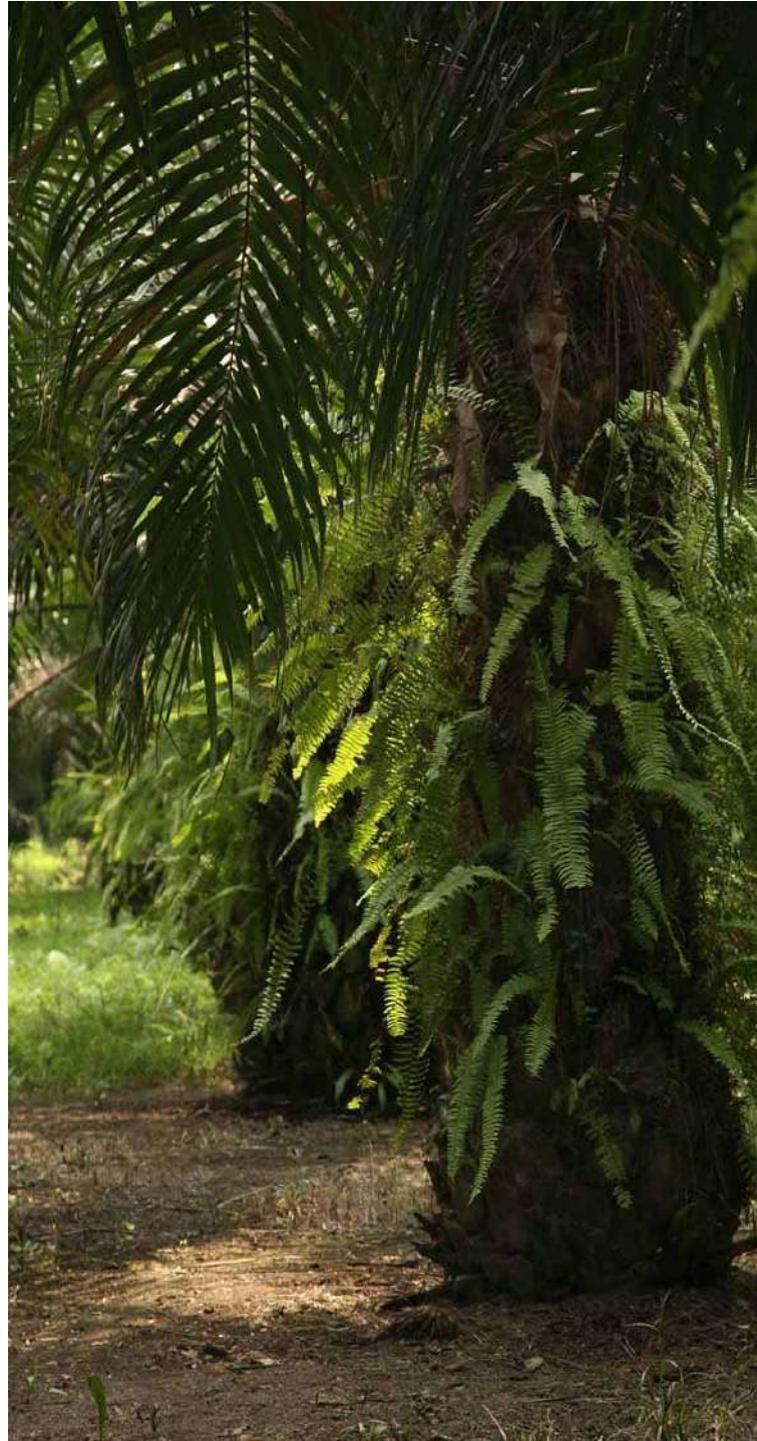
The sustainable management of oil palm plantations in Guatemala includes agricultural practices that focus on improving production and contributing to the environmental preservation of the areas where this crop has been established.

These practices are put in place from the moment the crop is designed. Ensuring plant health and nutrition of the palm crop by following efficient practices makes the sector truly operate under a concept of sustainable development. Some of the main practices implemented are presented below:

Plant health and biological management alternatives

The oil palm is pollinated by the insect *Elaeobius kamerunicus*. Pollination results in the formation of fruit bunches from which palm oil is subsequently extracted. This factor is especially important when establishing pest and disease management and control programs in oil palm plantations, which focus on the specific use of natural (biological) products and agricultural practices to ensure environmental protection.

Their implementation considers the following practices that impact the health of palm plantations and help preserve insects in the oil palm agroecosystem:



Management of plantation ecosystem

- There is natural vegetation diversity.
- Nectareous plants serve to attract insects that help control pest insects, prevent and/or reduce the application of insecticides and agrochemicals.
- Beneficial insects are identified for pest control.

Agronomic management of the crop

- Palm seeds are carefully selected for the establishment of nurseries.
- Oil palm leaves are pruned, and this material is added to the soil.
- Sampling and analyses are carried out and the nutrients in plantations are evaluated for adequate pest and disease management.

Pest control

- **Cultural control:** consists of placing traps to capture pest insects.
- **Mechanical control:** refers to the manual collection of pupae.
- **Biological control:** insects and other biological organisms inhabit palm plantations that help control pests. Biological control is the main activity for the management of pest insects in oil palm cultivation.
- Use of insecticides of natural origin (biological).
- Minimal and targeted use of chemical insecticides when strictly necessary.



Crop nutrition hand-in-hand with soil conservation



Fertilization

To ensure adequate plant nutrition in oil palm cultivation, fertilization programs are based on the analysis of soil, leaves and rachis that respond to the nutritional needs of the plants. These programs are rigorously verified to ensure their proper application and soil sustainability and fertility.



Use of organic fertilizers

Leaf pruning is part of the process of harvesting palm fruit. A common practice is to arrange these leaves around the palm tree where they are quickly and naturally absorbed into the soil to become an organic fertilizer whereby nutrients are recycled, which contributes to improving soil fertility.

Likewise, compost is produced with the empty bunches (also called rachis) and the residual water resulting from the palm oil extraction process. This compost returns to the palm plant and contributes to the physical, chemical and biological improvement of the soil, as well as to crop nutrition. These practices also allow closing production cycles and to zero (0) waste production.



Productivity and sustainability, the link in efficient agro-industrial practices

Guatemala's yield in 2021 was 5.8 tons of crude palm oil per hectare (tCPO/ha), while the world average is estimated at 3.7 tCPO/ha, which makes the country a **world leader in productivity**

Maintaining this level of productivity requires strict production standards both in plantations and in processing plants, the adaptation of new technologies to make the process for obtaining palm oil more efficient, establishing rigorous process controls, maintaining quality levels of raw materials, and all of this added to favorable climate factors for cultivation.

Some of the practices that companies have adopted to ensure efficiency and sustainability are:



Efficient use of water

- Companies have implemented reservoir systems to capture rainwater for use in operations that require irrigation; 20% of all the plantations in the country (located mainly on the southern coast) need irrigation; the rest rely on rainwater.
- Companies have invested in the acquisition of equipment and meters such as: water meters, rain gauges, tension meters and micro-sprinkler systems to ensure the efficient use of water in irrigation systems.
- To ensure responsible and rational water consumption, companies keep water usage logs of the industrial palm oil extraction process and implement standard procedures for the efficient operation of equipment and technologies installed in palm oil processing plants. With that, they ensure optimal use and reduced use of water.
- Training programs are in place to care for water resources to achieve increasingly efficient processes by optimizing water use.





Clean energy generation

GREPALMA member companies have implemented clean technologies to generate energy from renewable sources. Projects in place cover energy demand through hydro, thermal, solar photovoltaic, and biomass sources, and methane captured from wastewater.



Recovery of solid and liquid waste

Palm oil agribusiness production processes use a closed-cycle production strategy and, to a certain extent, the principles of a Circular Economy.

Already from the process conception, the impacts that waste will have on the natural environment are considered, and ways to reincorporate them is visualized, seeking to prevent pollution and, therefore, to ensure cleaner production.

Waste turned into resources

Organic matter produced in plantations and in processing plants is placed back in the soil in the form of organic fertilizer, while inorganic matter is reused or recycled.



Reuse

Resources or materials that are still good are reused, thus extending their useful life and reducing waste production.



Recycling

Materials that can be converted in a different product through authorized recycling agents are selected and utilized.



Recovery

Waste that cannot be recycled or that can be used to generate energy in processing plant systems is used in boilers. Another way of generating electric power for self-consumption and for the national electric grid is through the responsible management of wastewater. This water is also used as fertilizer-irrigation in plantations.





Adoption of voluntary certification standards

GREPALMA member companies have advanced voluntarily in international certification processes under the following standards:

1

Principles and Criteria of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO);

2

International Certification of Sustainability and Carbon, (ISCC);

3

SGOAL, which consists of an audit procedure that brings together good practices in an ethical audit technique;

4

ISO 14001:2015, Environmental Management Systems;

5

Anti-Bribery Management Systems, ISO 37001;

6

FSCC 22000, which ensures safety in the production of refined oil for use in food;

7

KOSHER, a certification that guarantees to consumers that products and ingredients preparation complies with the Kosher food policy; in addition, it is an indicator that the product meets strict standards of cleanliness, purity and quality;

8

Other.

PROMOTING GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES



1 NO POVERTY



Goal
1.2

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Goal
8.1, 8.4, 8.5, 8.7, 8.8

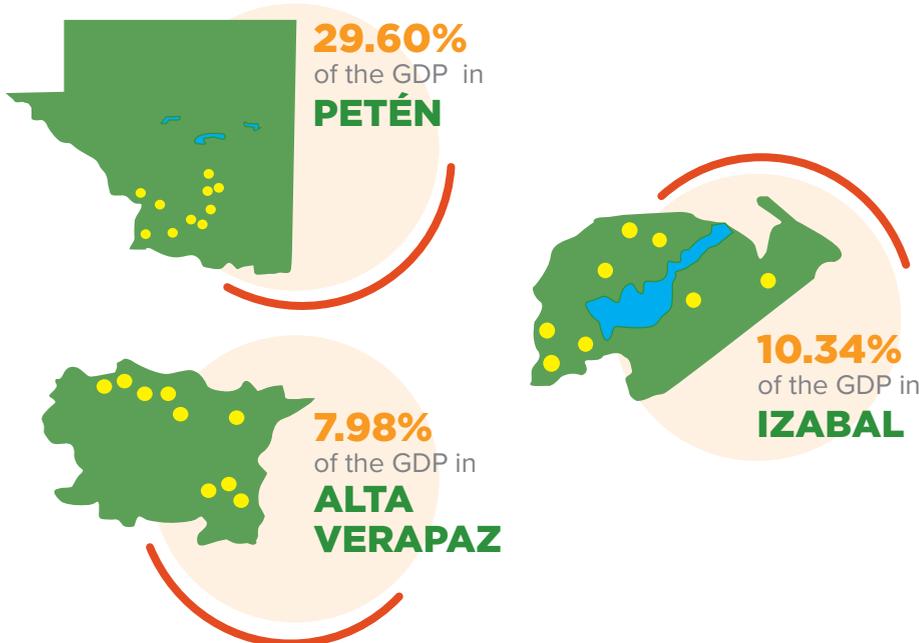
Dynamization of the economy, development opportunities for Guatemalans

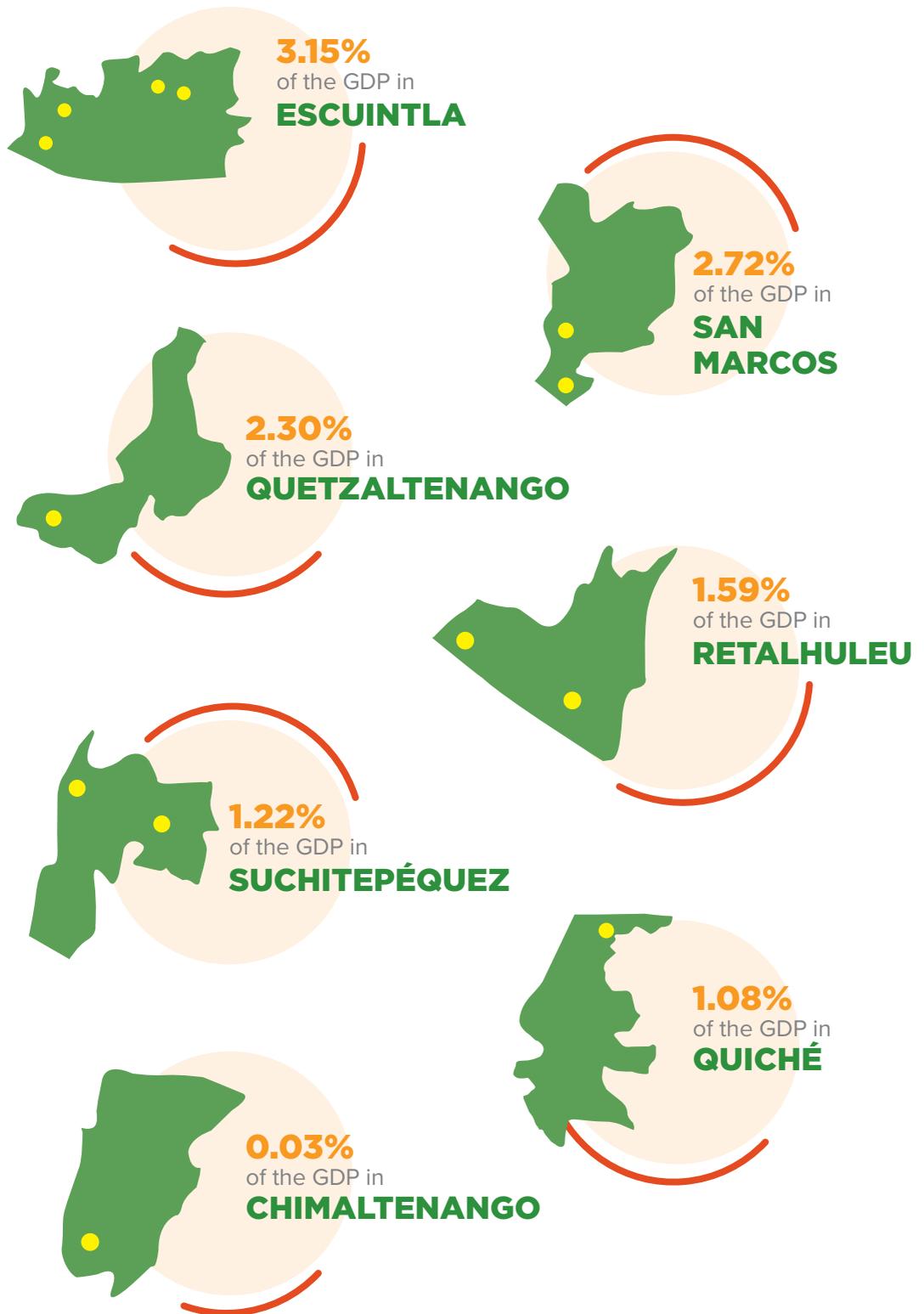
Guatemala has an estimated **180,614 hectares** of oil palm cultivation, representing only **1.66%** of the country's arable land. Currently, the crop is planted in three regions of Guatemala: the southern region, in the departments of Escuintla, Quetzaltenango, Retalhuleu, San Marcos, Suchitepéquez and Chimaltenango; the northeastern region comprising the departments of Alta Verapaz and Izabal, specifically the Valley of the Polochic and Motagua rivers; and the northern region encompassing the departments of Petén, part of the department of Alta Verapaz and Quiché.

In these regions, Guatemala's palm oil agribusiness contributes with **30,102** direct jobs and **150,600** indirect jobs, creating growth opportunities for the residents and their neighboring communities in areas where there was little or no investment prior to the establishment of palm projects; it is a sector committed to the creation of sources of stable and decent employment

At the end of 2021, the Guatemalan palm oil agribusiness had contributed more than **Q10.8 billion** to the country's economy, the equivalent of **1.98%** of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Oil palm contributions to the GDP in 10 departments where the crop is grown





G U A T E M A L A

6th

**largest producer
in the world**

3rd

**largest exporter in
the world**

of crude palm oil, generating **USD 715,459,322** in foreign currency for the country. During 2021, Guatemalan palm oil was the main export product to the European Union and Mexico, and the 4th export product to Central America.



A responsible sector, operating under equitable and fair labor conditions

To ensure optimal working conditions, **GREPALMA** member companies have voluntarily adopted policies and business commitments in labor matters, namely:

- The Labor Policy of the Chamber of Agriculture;
- The Commitment Statement by the Business Network for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor in Guatemala “Boys and girls go to school”;
- The Policy of Respect for Human Rights of GREPALMA and its members;
- The adoption of company policies on labor matters focused on equitable and fair working conditions and zero-tolerance for child labor.

In its commitment to create formal and decent employment, the palm sector produces palm oil following labor practices which are compliant with national laws in force in Guatemala, and which are guided by the adoption of international sustainability standards. These practices are reflected in working conditions in **GREPALMA** member company operations, including:

- The direct hiring of workers in palm operations, without resorting to intermediaries;
- The implementation of a card system or written contract for permanent and temporary workers, thus exceeding the requirements in Article 27 of the Guatemalan Labor Code, which provides that individual agricultural work contracts may be verbal, among others;
- Compliance with the payment of work-related benefits to workers, with proper documents and internal payment records;

- The payment of social security contribution to the Guatemalan Social Security (IGSS) for permanent and temporary workers, with their respective payroll report to the appropriate government agency;
- Internal Work Regulations duly registered with the competent authority and for widespread use;
- The adoption of internal policies and processes to hire workers from surrounding communities;
- The adoption of internal zero-tolerance policies related to child labor, with the provision not to hire minors under 18 years of age. This provision exceeds the requirement in Article 31 of the Guatemalan Labor Code that allows hiring minors from the age of 14 onward;
- Companies operate under international standards of quality, safety, sustainability, occupational health and safety, and implement controls to address risks, prioritizing the health and safety of employees.

The integration of sustainable agro-industrial practices, the dynamization of the country's economy and the creation of stable and decent employment are direct contributions of Guatemala's palm industry to the country's efforts to advance in the search for integral development in rural areas and for the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).



A PARTNER IN THE COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF GUATEMALAN PEOPLE

1 NO POVERTY



Goal 1.4

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Goal 3.9

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Goal 4.3, 4.5

5 GENDER EQUALITY



Goal 5.1

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Goal 17.17





Respect for Human Rights, a cross-cutting pillar in the sustainable production of palm oil

In 2014, **GREPALMA** joined the efforts of the Guatemalan organized business sector in human rights and business and adopted the Institutional Business Policy on Human Rights of Guatemala's Coordinating Committee of Agricultural, Commercial, Industrial and Financial Associations (CACIF) and the Human Rights Respect Policy of the Chamber of Agriculture published in 2018.

In 2020, Industria de Jabones y Detergentes Las Palmas, S.A.; NaturOils, S.A.; and Reforestadora de Palmas del Petén, S.A. (REPSA), **GREPALMA** members, participated in the **Program for the adoption of human rights respect practices in business in the oil palm sector** developed with the support of the International Labor Organization (ILO), and backed by the Chamber of Agriculture and **GREPALMA**.

At the same time, within the framework of the REFRAME Project of the International Labor Organization (ILO) financed by the European Union, **GREPALMA** worked with the organization CEGESTI and the backing of the Chamber of Agriculture on two phases of work in the field of human rights and business: The first phase was **GREPALMA** and its members' Policy on Human Rights, published in 2020. The second phase involved the creation of the **Guide on Human Rights Risk Management in the Palm Oil Agribusiness** and of the **Virtual Resource, Due Diligence and Fair Hiring Center of GREPALMA**. Both tools are part of the Policy's implementation.

Ongoing training is a fundamental pillar in the process of implementing the Policy, which is why, during 2021 and 2022, training programs on Human Rights and Due Diligence have been carried out.

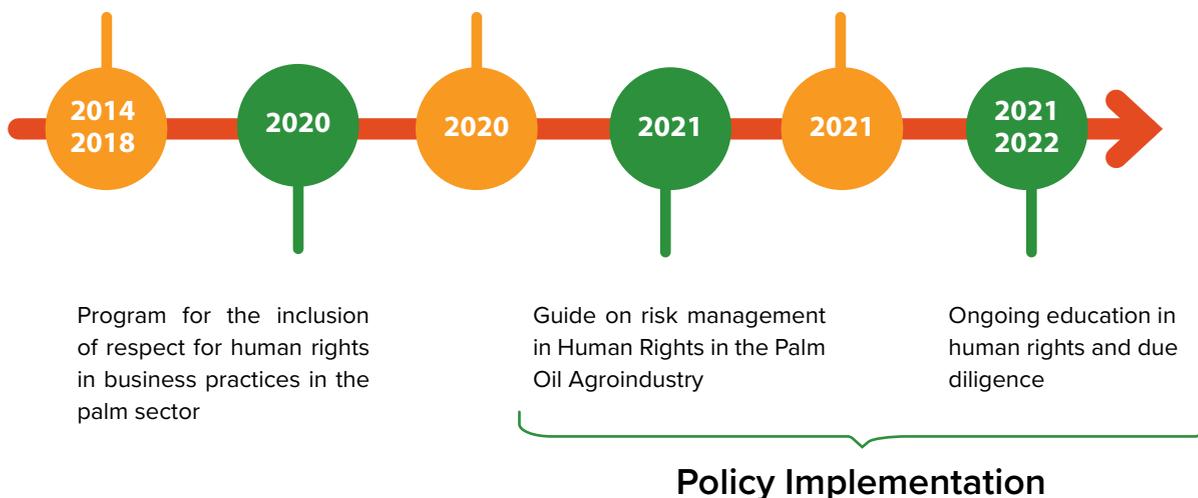
Advances in terms of respect for Human Rights 2014-2022

GREPALMA and its members sign a commitment to respect human rights, thus joining the effort started by business organizations. (CACIF and Agricultural Chamber Policy)

GREPALMA y and members' policy on Respect for Human Rights.

Built within the framework of ILO's Program

Virtual Resource Center Business Due Diligence and Fair Hiring



The palm oil sector was the first agricultural sector in Guatemala to adopt and launch a human rights policy in the country, reaffirming its commitment to respect human rights as it has been doing in this cross-cutting matter, linked to advances in the sustainable production of palm oil in Guatemala, which is, in turn, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Aware that human dignity is key to community development, GREPALMA member companies are adopting cross-cutting policies aimed at not allowing discrimination based on age, race, religion or creed, gender, disability, sexual orientation, among others; as well as promoting respect for human rights by rejecting the use of violence, and adopting practices that foster a culture of zero-tolerance of any type of harassment, threat or intimidation.

Gender Committees have been formed and continue to be established to protect, support and provide an opportunity for dialogue with female workers for the defense of their rights and the promotion of their interests in companies.

- According to information compiled among **GREPALMA** member companies, by 2021, more than 85% of companies currently implement actions and practices that are aligned with codes of ethical conduct and corporate responsibility.
- In addition to this, 57% of companies report that they currently implement systematic actions and practices to ensure due diligence processes, specifically around human rights.

[More information on progress in human rights' respect.](#)



Promoting wellbeing in rural Guatemala

The contribution of **GREPALMA** member companies to the local development of neighboring communities goes beyond the creation of sources of employment and the revitalization of local economies and promote the wellbeing of inhabitants through programs and projects in the fields of health, food security, education, access to drinking water, access to electricity and access to road infrastructure. Among these programs and initiatives by **GREPALMA** member companies, the following stand out:

Impacts on health and food security

- About 46,000 people benefited during 2021, of which more than 26,000 have been supported in issues concerning the impact of COVID-19;
- More than Q6,300,000 in investment during 2021, of which more than Q1,600,000 went to address COVID-19;
- Medical services within oil palm plantations available to workers and community residents;
- Medical activities held in conjunction with government agencies;
- COVID-19 vaccination, training for its prevention, and disease detection services;
- Community ambulance service for emergency care;
- Surveillance of water quality and environmental sanitation;
- Support for food security projects, including providing supplies from the Order of Malta to the Samaria Health Center, which benefits 15 communities;
- Improvement of health posts including donation of resources, fuel, cleaning, and disinfection supplies;
- Medical services such as performing ultrasounds tests and providing dental consultation;
- Primary health care program in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare for house-to-house care and in schools, providing services related to pregnant women, childbirth, general consultation, pap smears, vaccination of children, women of childbearing age, human papilloma, COVID-19, monitoring children with malnutrition, tuberculosis, deworming and delivery of micronutrients;
- Training in reproductive sexual health and training for midwives;
- **GREPALMA** partners have projects such as: agricultural production, family gardens, planting basic crops and vegetables, fish farming and pig raising, thus supporting food security and contributing to the diversification of economic activities for women and their families;
- Promotion of the Clean Water, Family Planning and Clean Patio Program.





Impacts on education

- 89 initiatives to support the education of Guatemalan boys and girls developed in 2021;
- More than 12,000 children and young people benefited in 2021;
- Close to Q823,000 of investment, during 2021, to enhance access to education;
- Private elementary education schools operating within **GREPALMA** member farms;
- Payment of salaries to public school teachers;
- Construction and maintenance of infrastructure for schools with a water and sanitation system and peripheral fencing of schools;
- Equipment for school classrooms;
- Digital system equipment;
- Support for the literacy program;
- Financial contributions to schools.

Coordination of efforts to promote the development of the communities neighboring the palm plantations is a priority, which is why **GREPALMA** members coordinate initiatives with various agencies, including:

- National Literacy Committee (CONALFA)
- Community Councils for Urban and Rural Development (COCODE)
- National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED)
- Defenders of Nature
- Nature Protection Division (DIPRONA) of the National Civil Police (PNC)
- Balam Foundation
- Heifer International
- Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology (ICTA)
- Municipal Development Institute (INFOM)
- National Forest Institute (INAB)
- National Electrification Institute (INDE)
- Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA)
- Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN)
- Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MSPAS)
- Municipalities
- Order of Malta
- Municipal Traffic Police (PMT)
- National Civil Police (PNC)
- MOSCAMED Guatemala Program
- Sa' Komonil
- Secretariat of Social Works of the Wife of the President of the Republic of Guatemala (SOSEP)

These actions, aligned with the SDGs, represent a significant contribution to the comprehensive development of Guatemalan children and of the women and men of the communities neighboring oil palm plantations.

FIRM COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



Goal
12.2

13 CLIMATE
ACTION



Goal
13.1, 13.2

15 LIFE
ON LAND



Goal
15.1, 15.2

17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



Goal
17.17



Since 2018, the palm grower sector, through **GREPALMA**, has acceded to and voluntarily adopted several environmental commitments to advance the path of responsible and sustainable palm production in Guatemala; it preserves and promotes the conservation of natural resources based on national laws in force in the country on environmental matters, and adopts international sustainability standards that have a direct impact on the preservation of the environment. These commitments are part of the sustainability strategy drawn up by **GREPALMA** and its members, namely:

- Environmental and Climate Change Policy of **GREPALMA** and its members
- Estimation of GHG Emissions in the production of Guatemalan palm oil
- Environmental guide for the oil palm agribusiness in Guatemala
- Public Statement of Voluntary Commitment to Zero Deforestation
- National Monitoring System for the Sustainable Development of Palm Oil

In this way, the actions by the Guatemalan palm-growing sector are aimed at developing solutions that prevent and control adverse environmental impacts and contribute to adaptation to climate change, responding to the eight strategic pillars of the Environmental and Climate Change Policy of **GREPALMA** and its members:

- Water management in plantations and processing plants
- Actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change
- Management of organic and inorganic solid waste
- Soil management and conservation
- Conservation and restoration of biological diversity
- Social relations
- Systematization of information and climate change to determine the baseline and progress in the implementation of the policy
- Capacity-building



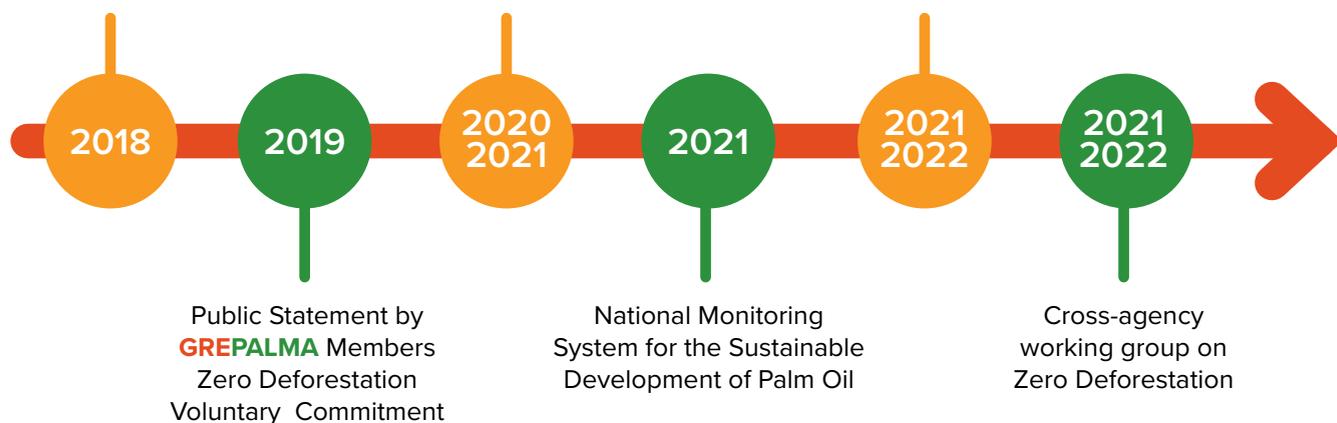
● A D V A N C I N G I N T H E ● **ZERO DEFORESTATION** **VOLUNTARY COMMITMENT**

Actions undertaken by **GREPALMA** and its members in the period 2018-2022

Environmental and Climate Change Policy by **GREPALMA** and its members

Satellite Monitoring Study for the sustainable development of palm oil production in Guatemala

Permanent satellite monitoring of palm plantations and surrounding areas



GREPALMA published in 2018 the **Environmental and Climate Change Policy of **GREPALMA** and its Members**, whose objective is to provide strategic guidelines for the improvement of environmental management, adaptation to and mitigation of climate change throughout the palm oil production chain, including actions to monitor and evaluate progress. The Policy was built within the framework of the cooperation agreement between the Development with Low Emissions Project of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Chamber of Agriculture (CAMAGRO).

In response to Strategic Pillar 5, **Conservation and Restoration of Biological Diversity** and its lines of action, **GREPALMA** and its members signed, in 2019, the **Public Statement on Voluntary Zero-Deforestation Commitment**.

GREPALMA MEMBERS

EXPLICITLY ADOPTING

THE COMMITMENT

PERÍOD 2019-2021

- AGRIPALMA, S.A.
- AGROINDUSTRIA PALMERA SAN ROMAN, S.A.
- AGROPECUARIA NUEVO SAN CARLOS, S.A.
- AGROPECUARIA RAUDALES LA CACHIMBA, S.A.
- ASESORÍA TÉCNICA PROFESIONAL DEL PETÉN, S.A.
- BALEU, S.A.
- CORPORACION UNIACEITES, S.A.
- CAUCHOS Y PALMAS, S.A.
- COROZAL, S.A.
- CORPORACION PALMAS SAN AGUSTIN, S.A.
- DESARROLLO DE PROYECTOS E INVERSIONES DE GUATEMALA, SOCIEDAD ANÓNIMA (DEPROINGUA, S.A.)
- ENTRE PALMAS S.A.
- GRUPO HAME
- INDUSTRIA DE JABONES Y DETERGENTES LAS PALMAS, S.A.
- LAGUNA BLANCA, S.A.
- NATURACEITES, S.A.
- PALMERAS CAPITAL, S.A.

GREPALMA has promoted specific initiatives to advance in the fulfillment of this commitment, namely:

01

Implementation of the Satellite Study for the sustainable development of palm oil production in Guatemala carried out between 2020 and 2021 by Satelligence;

02

National Monitoring System for the Sustainable Development of Palm Oil, launched in 2021.



The study, presented in May 2021, showed that over **90%** of oil palm plantations have been established on low carbon soils, and are not linked to issues of deforestation.

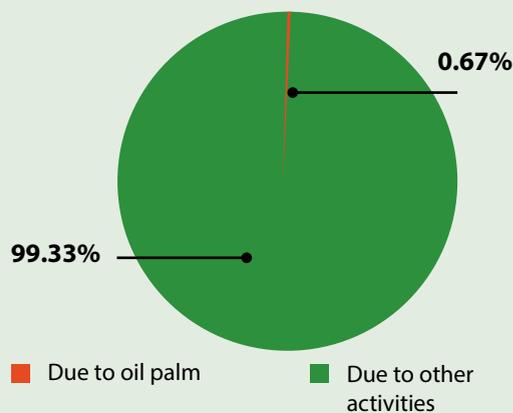
According to data from the Guatemalan Forest Information System, between 1989 and 2020, around 2,455,617 hectares of forest were lost in the country. Based on this information and the findings of Satelligence, we conclude that oil palm cultivation represents **0.67%** of total deforestation in the country.

The results of the satellite study for the sustainable development of palm oil production in Guatemala became the starting point for the National Monitoring System for the Sustainable Development of Palm Oil in Guatemala, which defines three lines of action:

- 01** Permanent satellite monitoring of oil palm plantations of **GREPALMA** members to ensure a deforestation-free supply chain;
- 02** Creation of the Cross-agency Zero-deforestation Working group with public and private actors, academia and international organizations to follow up on and continue with commitments made and;
- 03** Promotion of programs, projects and initiatives to foster environmental conservation.



Significance of oil palm in deforestation in Guatemala



Source: Made by **GREPALMA** with information from the Forest Information System of Guatemala and Satelligence.

Based on the results of this study, satellite monitoring was established to verify compliance with the Zero-deforestation Commitment adopted by **GREPALMA** and its members. With the technical support of Satelligence, monitoring is in force during the period 2021-2024.

SATELLIGENCE REPORTS

FOR 2020 - 2021

Monitoring period reported on by Satelligence	Hectares deforested to grow oil palm (GREPALMA member farms)
October – December de 2020	0 (zero hectares)
January – March de 2021	0 (zero hectares)
April – June de 2021	0 (zero hectares)
July – September de 2021	0 (zero hectares)
October – December de 2021	0 (zero hectares)

[More information on progress with the zero-deforestation commitment.](#)



Environmental conservation actions

- By 2021, 60% of the palm oil produced in Guatemala was certified as sustainable by international standards such as RSPO and ISCC;
- 80% of oil palm plantations in Guatemala rely on rainwater; only 20% use efficient irrigation systems, making responsible use of water resources;
- All of **GREPALMA** member processing plants reuse water resulting from the industrial process of extracting palm oil for fertilization-irrigation, providing nutrients to palm plantations and avoiding disposal into receiving bodies;
- Recovery of waste from palm oil extraction is carried out using treatment or final disposal technologies, namely: septic tanks, biodep, treatment plants, composting, 'fertigation' and biodigesters;
- More than 122,300 metric tons of compost are added periodically to **GREPALMA** member palm plantations. This organic fertilizer, obtained from the empty bunches resulting from the extraction of palm oil, reduces the use of around 11,000 metric tons of chemical fertilizers per year.
- A contribution is made to the physical, chemical and biological improvement of the soil, through nutrients provided by the organic fertilizer applied to oil palm plantations.
- More than 11,000 hectares of conserved forests within palm farms of **GREPALMA** members contribute to the preservation of biodiversity.
- The riparian zones located within palm farms provide multiple benefits to the ecosystem of the area where they are planted, among them: they regulate the hydrology of the area, conserve soil and riverbanks, and are the habitat of terrestrial and aquatic animals.
- 50% of **GREPALMA** members perform biodiversity studies or monitoring, which has allowed knowing the richness of the biotic resources of the areas under study. Its results have been key to implementing actions aimed at balancing the ecosystem where oil palm is one of its elements.
- An example of the commitment to the preservation of biodiversity are the results of a study that identified more than 56 species of birds, 16 species of amphibians and reptiles, 17 species of mammals and 28 species of flora within a protected natural reserve.



Environmental conservation actions

- Projects have been implemented for the protection and conservation of mangroves and species within the mangrove ecosystem in the palm region in the south of the country.
- High Conservation Value studies have identified protected ecosystems, areas and species, conserved by companies certified under international sustainability standards.
- To promote environmental protection, conservation projects have been carried out in the Maya Biosphere, in Laguna del Tigre Park and in El Rosario National Reserve. It is estimated that 28,400 hectares of forest are currently preserved in the Maya Biosphere Reserve and in Laguna del Tigre Park.
- 50% of **GREPALMA** members build renewable energy projects: hydro, solar, biomass, and methane gas, thus contributing to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.
- 52% of **GREPALMA** members have assigned human resources to address environmental issues and comply with national laws applicable to oil palm operations, as well as international certification processes and environmental conservation commitments assumed.
- The carbon footprint measurement by the sector shows that emissions from palm oil production in Guatemala amount to 0.45% of total emissions by the country. Even so, actions are prioritized to reduce GHG generation.

The multiple efforts implemented in the regions where Guatemala palm cultivation operates show the contributions that growers make to the preservation of the environment and the sustainable production of palm oil in alignment with the 2030 Agenda to address sustainable development.

GUATEMALAN PALM CULTIVATION CONTRIBUTES TO

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



OUR MEMBERS



GREPALMA MEMBER OF



8-0250-20-100-00
valid license number



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APOYAMOS



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“GUATEMALAN PALM CULTIVATION, WORLD BENCHMARK IN PRODUCTIVITY AND SUSTAINABILITY”