



INTENTION STATEMENT BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF COLOMBIA AND THE MINISTRY FOR AGRICULTURE, NATURE AND FOOD QUALITY OF THE NETHERLANDS, PARTNER OF THE AMSTERDAM DECLARATION PARTNERSHIP

Recognizing that global demand for vegetable oils will continue to grow and that oil palm is the most productive vegetable oil crop per hectare in the world, we strive to enhance the production and consumption of deforestation-free, sustainable palm oil.

Also recognizing the commitments expressed in the New York Declaration on Forests and the Paris Climate Agreement, underlining the global importance to preserve primary forests and high conservation value areas a.o. through responsible supply chain management.

Palm oil is an important commodity in South America, particularly Colombia is the world's fourth largest palm oil producer with a share of 2% of world production. In 2017 Palm Oil Crop represented the 3.3 percent of Colombia's agricultural GDP, with 1.6 million tons of crude palm oil produced on 516.960 hectares.

Colombia signed the New York Declaration on Forests and is committed to zero net deforestation in the Colombian Amazon by 2020 in order to reduce climate change, support sustainable economic development and conserve biodiversity.

The Netherlands is the main importer of palm oil from Colombia and signatory country of the Amsterdam Declaration. The Amsterdam Declaration Partnership is signed by Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom in the context of the Paris Climate Agreement. The overall ambition of the signatory countries is deforestation-free, sustainable commodity production and import as part of our climate change and Sustainable Development Goals' agenda.

The Netherlands recognizes and welcomes that Colombian palm oil producers signed in 2017 a national zero-deforestation agreement for the elimination of deforestation in the palm oil supply chains. This was also recognized by Norway and the United Kingdom. In order to make the palm oil supply chain fully sustainable, additional actions regarding land rights, labor rights and social and environmental issues need to be addressed. Approximately half of the palm oil production in Colombia is being produced by more than 6,000 Colombian smallholders and medium size producers – and these independent farmers face challenges.

Colombia is committed to sustainable development of the oil palm sector with respect to People, Planet and Profit and in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is in line with the new vision of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of The Netherlands, that aims to strengthen the link between nature and agriculture, and promotes a continuous improvement and reduced use of natural resources in agriculture by an efficient use in a circular economy.



Together, we recognize that rising global demand for palm oil also creates an economic opportunity that has to be met in a sustainable manner. Therefore we will aim to enhance the cooperation between Colombia and the Netherlands by:

- Promoting the sustainable development of the oil palm sector with respect to People, Planet and Profit and in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Enhancing cooperation to maximize production per hectare
- Developing a highly effective circular economy in agriculture through minimizing the use of pesticides and social responsible application; optimizing the use of nutrients; and supporting the optimal use of all palm oil related biomass.
- Cooperating to avoid deforestation caused by oil palm production in accordance with the established objectives of each party.
- Starting cooperation between The Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and Wageningen Food and Biobased Research to develop and start a joint research program with the Colombian Oil Palm Research Center to further increase yield and sustainability of oil palm in Colombia with a focus on the circular economy.
- Supporting close cooperation between national multi-stakeholder alliances in the European Sustainable Palm Oil initiative and the Colombian Sustainable Palm oil Program

Achieving these ambitions will significantly improve the sustainability of the palm oil sector and avoid high climate change emissions. By working in partnership, we can contribute to avoiding deforestation and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Climate Agreement and the goal of not exceeding the 2 degrees Celsius warming and the need to strengthen the role of forests in resilience to climate change, poverty reduction and resource security.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA

**MR. ANDRÉS VALENCIA PINZÓN
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL
DEVELOPMENT OF COLOMBIA**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
NETHERLANDS**

**MRS. CAROLA SCHOUTEN
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, NATURE
AND FOOD QUALITY OF THE
NETHERLANDS**