



Asian Palm Oil Alliance

Why in News?

The apex edible oil industry associations from five major palm oil importing countries of Asia -- **India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal** -- have come together to form the **Asian Palm Oil Alliance (APOA)**.

- APOA held its first general body meeting on the sidelines of the Globoil Summit being held at Agra, India and the next meeting is expected to be held **in Indonesia early next year 2023**.
- **Globoil Summit** is one of the World's Leading Edible Oils and Agri Trade Conference, Exhibitions & Awards.
 - 2022 also marks the 25th year celebration of Globoil India.

What is APOA?

- The APOA aims is safeguarding the **economic and business interests of the [palm oil consuming countries](#)** and will work towards increasing the consumption of palm oil in member countries.
- The alliance would work **towards ensuring that palm oil is recognised as a high-quality, economical, and healthy vegetable oil** and to change the negative image of palm oil.
- Membership of APOA would be **further expanded to include companies or industry bodies** associated with production or refining of palm oil across the continent.

What is Palm Oil?

- Palm oil is **currently the world's most consumed vegetable oil**.
- It is used extensively in the **production of detergents, plastics, cosmetics, and biofuels**.
- Indonesia and Malaysia together account for almost **90% of the global palm oil production**, with Indonesia producing the largest quantity at over 45 million tonnes in 2021.
- Top consumers of the commodity are India, China, and the **[European Union \(EU\)](#)**.
- India's annual imports of edible oil is around **13-14 million tonne (MT)**.
- Around 8 MT of palm oil is imported from **Indonesia and Malaysia**, while other oils, such as soya and sunflower, come from Argentina, Brazil, Ukraine and Russia.
 - Asia accounts for **around 40% of the global palm oil consumption** while Europe accounts for 12% of palm oil trade. Indonesia and Malaysia are the biggest palm oil exporters in the world.
- India is the **largest importer of palm oil in Asia**, accounting for 15% of global imports, followed by China (9%), Pakistan (4%) and Bangladesh (2%).

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Q. With reference to 'palm oil', consider the following statements: (2021)

1. The palm oil tree is native to Southeast Asia.
2. The palm oil is a raw material for some industries producing lipstick and perfumes.
3. The palm oil can be used to produce biodiesel.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a)** 1 and 2 only
- (b)** 2 and 3 only
- (c)** 1 and 3 only
- (d)** 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b)

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