

# PALM KERNEL OIL DERIVATIVES IN DETERGENTS

## The industry's commitment to sustainable sourcing

A.I.S.E. Fact sheet • January 2020



PALM TREE

PALM FRUITS →

ONE KERNEL →  
PER FRUIT

• **Pulp** ▶ **Palm oil ("long-chain fats")**: Directly usable as oil ▶ most widely used vegetable oil in world, especially in food sector, e.g. pastries

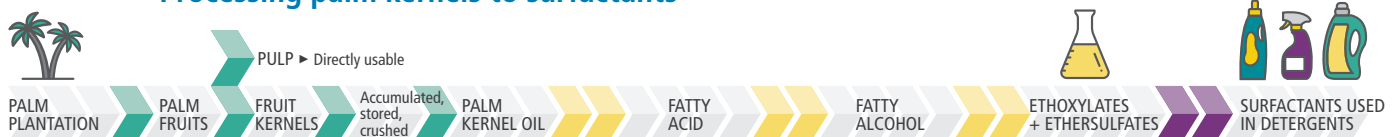
• **Kernel** ▶ **Palm kernel oil ("short-chain fats")**: usable after processing into fat-based derivatives ▶ by-product of palm oil production mostly used in non-food applications, e.g. surfactant and soap production

Palm oil & palm kernel oil represent **38%**  
of global vegetable oil production

## How palm kernel oil derivatives are used in a detergent product

Palm kernel oil derivatives are used as surfactants in detergents. Surfactants are essential to ensure an adequate cleaning functionality as they attack and remove the dirt.

### Processing palm kernels to surfactants

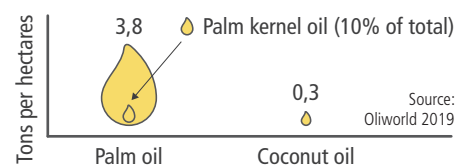


## Why palm kernel oil is used by the detergents industry

The detergents industry is investing in optimising palm kernel oil as a bio-based raw material. Only two vegetable feedstocks i.e. coconut and palm oil have the chemical structure equivalent to petrochemicals for the manufacture of surfactants for detergents.

Advantages of palm oil plantations:

- Highest yield per hectare of any vegetable oil
- Existing sustainability certification schemes
- Palm fruit kernel "short-chain fats" can be used in non-food applications



## Detergent manufacturers committed to sustainable sourcing

An increasing number of detergent manufacturers source palm kernel oil from suppliers that adhere to recognised certification schemes that ensure the sustainability of their supply chain, e.g. RSPO.

A.I.S.E. Charter  
for Sustainable  
Cleaning: industry  
flagship sustainability  
initiative



In 2018, approx. **70%** of the members  
of the A.I.S.E. Charter (European detergent,  
cleaning and maintenance products  
manufacturers) were also committed to  
sustainable sourcing by joining RSPO.



Roundtable  
on Sustainable  
Palm Oil

For further details on the use of palm kernel oil in detergents, go to [www.forum-waschen.de/materialien.html](http://www.forum-waschen.de/materialien.html)

For more information on the industry's vision on the use of bio-based materials in detergents, go to [www.aise.eu/biobased](http://www.aise.eu/biobased)

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