

A VALUABLE OIL

“We are all from the same earth, from the same world. And all of us have the responsibility to take care of our planet. We cannot dream of a future if we cannot guarantee a present.”

Mita Xipaya



Purpose

To support young people to understand the impact that large-scale farming of palm oil can have on Indigenous communities in Guatemala.



Materials

- Worksheet 1: Palm Oil Supply Chain Cards
- Introduction to Guatemala slide show



Reminder

View slides 1–13 of the Introduction to Guatemala slide show before completing activities. The slide show offers background information and context on Guatemala.

Activity 1

Time: 10 minutes

Use slides 12 and 13 of the Introduction to Guatemala slide show to introduce the young people to palm oil, what it is, what it is used for, and where it comes from.

Follow this with the exercise on slide 14, which asks the young people to stand up when they see the name of a product containing palm oil that they have consumed or used recently.



Activity 2

Time: 20 minutes

Step 1

Split the young people into groups of three or four. Give each group a copy of Worksheet 1: Palm Oil Supply Chain Cards, cut into individual cards. Go through slide 16 to explain what a supply chain is.

Step 2

Ask the groups to read each card and arrange them in the correct order, displaying the palm oil supply chain. Ask the groups to feedback on the order they have chosen and explain their reasons.

The correct order is 5, 9, 4, 2, 6, 1, 3, 7, 8, 10 and is represented on slides 17 and 18.

THE SUPPLY CHAIN OF PALM OIL

01 I work on a palm oil plantation in Guatemala. I work hard cutting down the fruit from the trees with long blades ready for processing.

02 I make sure that the machines that squeeze the oil out of the palm fruit are working properly, and fix them if they break.

03 I am a port worker in Guatemala. I help load the ships that take the palm oil from my country and bring it to countries in North America, Europe and around the world.

04 I work in the Netherlands at Rotterdam port. I help to unload the ships and prepare the containers for transport. Palm oil from around the world is one of the many things that come through the port every month.

05 I am a lorry driver from Amsterdam. Part of my job is moving containers full of palm oil from the port in Rotterdam to the refineries. I also sometimes transport the refined oil to factories all over Europe.

THE SUPPLY CHAIN OF PALM OIL


06 I work for a refinery in the Netherlands. My job is to process the raw palm oil so that it can be used in factories making products that need this ingredient.

07 I work for a factory for a company that makes beauty products for sale in European countries. Palm oil is a key ingredient. It has many uses. Like making our products foamy.

08 I work as a truck driver for a company that makes beauty products, which is based in the UK. I collect products made in our factories, and bring them to supply depots in the UK. I then help to distribute them to our stores in the UK and Ireland.

09 I work in a department store in Dublin city centre in the beauty products section. I am responsible for increasing the sales of a variety of products, from Nails to other make-up products to skincare products like face scrub and moisturiser.

10 I am a student based in Galway. I like to make sure my skin is healthy, so I use skincare products that are extra foamy. I don't think too much about the ingredients. I love the scent.

Activity 3 **Time:** 20 minutes

Follow-up questions:

- Where is the value added in the supply chain?
- Who do you think benefits most from this supply chain? Who can make the most profit?
- Who benefits the least from this supply chain? Who makes the least profit?
- Why is palm oil production considered a global justice issue? (Use slide 19, and show the Guatemala section of the Exploring Justice [video](#).)
- What alternatives for palm oil are available? (Use slide 20.)
- Who in the supply chain has the power to ensure that the palm oil is sustainable? At what point does this need to happen? Where does the power truly lie to change the whole supply chain?
- How would that work back to the farmer/producer?



- In whose interests is it to use unsustainable palm oil?
- Who will benefit most from sustainable palm oil?
- What can we do to help bring about this shift to sustainable palm oil? (Use slides 21 and 22 to come up with a group action.)

**Summary**

Many experts believe that going palm oil free is not the right thing to do and that a move towards more sustainable palm oil would be better for the following reasons: a boycott of palm oil will not protect the rainforest or indigenous communities, but moving towards sustainable palm oil will ensure that companies take action. Switching to alternative oils may be even more damaging to the environment because palm oil yields are higher than other oils. Up to four times more palm oil is produced per hectare than equivalents like sunflower or rapeseed. Millions of people around the world rely on the palm oil industry for their livelihood. A move to sustainable palm oil could mean protection for producers.





Worksheet 1: Palm Oil Supply Chain Cards

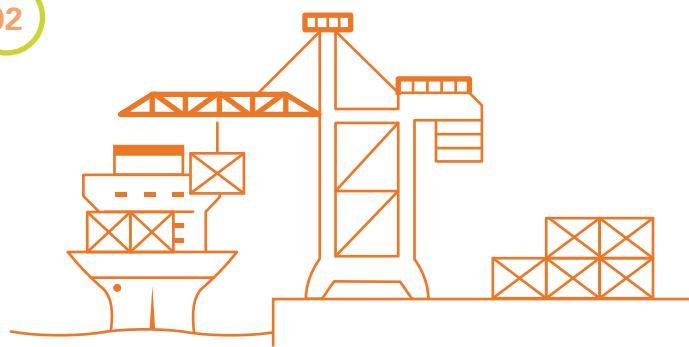


01



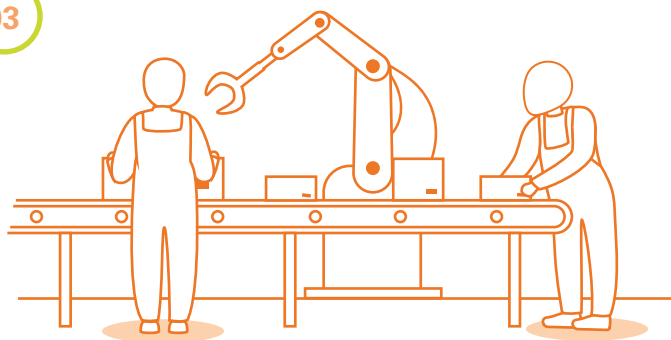
I work for a refinery in the Netherlands. My job is to process the raw palm oil so that it can be used in factories making products that need this ingredient.

02



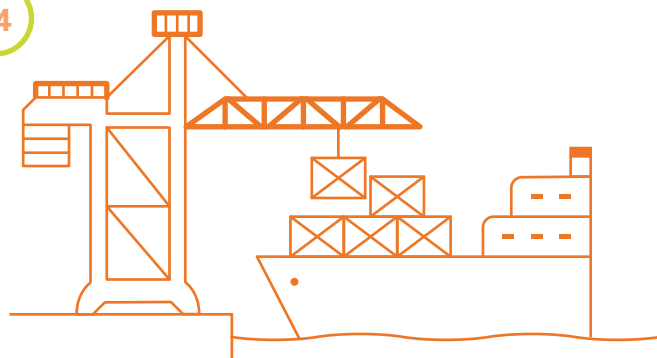
I work in the Netherlands at Rotterdam port. I help to unload the ships and prepare the contents for transport. Palm oil from around the world is one of the many things that comes through the port every month.

03



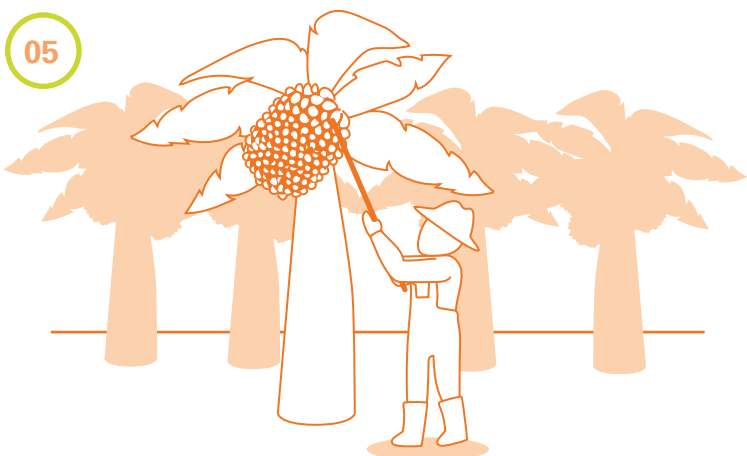
I work in a factory for a company that makes beauty products for sale in European countries. Palm oil is a key ingredient. It has many uses, like making our products foamier.

04



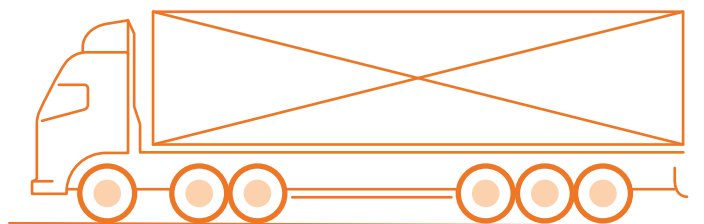
I am a port worker in Guatemala. I help load the ships that take the palm oil from my country and bring it to countries in North America, Europe and others the world.

05



I work on a palm oil plantation in Guatemala. I work hard cutting down the fruit from the trees with long sticks ready for processing.

06



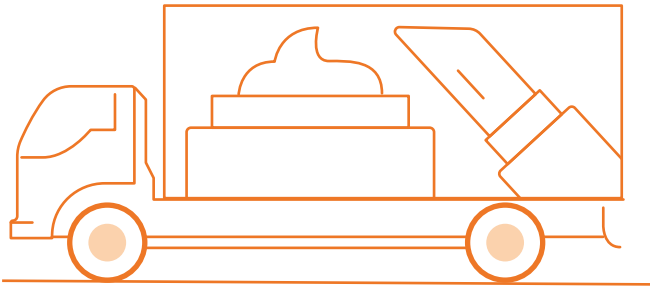
I am a lorry driver from Amsterdam. Part of my job is moving containers full of palm oil from the port in Rotterdam to the refinery. I also sometimes transport the refined oil to factories all over Europe.



Worksheet 1: Palm Oil Supply Chain Cards

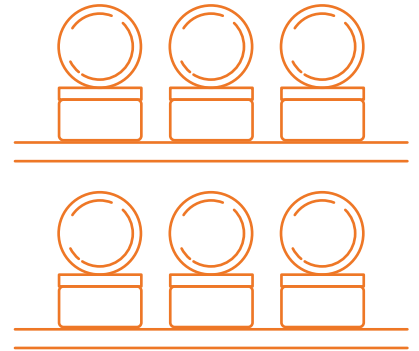


07



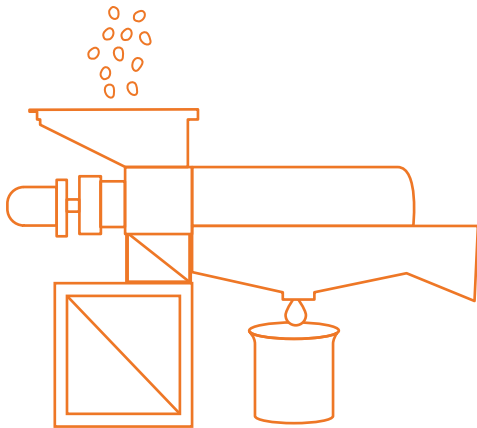
I work as a truck driver for a company that makes beauty products, which is based in the UK. I collect products made in our factories and bring them to supply depots in the UK. I then help to distribute them to our sellers in the UK and Ireland.

08



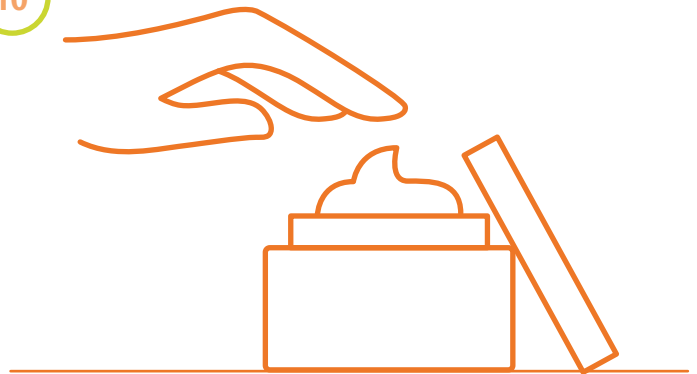
I work in a department store in Dublin city centre in the beauty products section. I am responsible for increasing the sales of a variety of products, from lipstick and other make-up products to skincare products like face scrub and moisturiser.

09



I work in the palm oil mill in Guatemala. I make sure that the machines that squeeze the oil out of the palm fruit are working properly, and fix them if they break.

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I am a student based in Galway. I like to make sure my skin is healthy, so I use skincare products that are extra foamy. I don't think too much about the ingredients. I trust the brand.