The Italian Union for Sustainable Palm Oil was established in October 2015 by a group of Companies and Associations operating in the food industry that use palm oil, with the aim of acting as useful interface for actively promoting a culture of sustainability for this product. All members are committed to using or supplying exclusively 100% sustainable palm oil by the end of 2020.

MISSION
The Union promotes the use of sustainable palm oil by Italian companies producing consumer goods and coordinates communication activities to promote consumer awareness. The principles upon which its activities are based are transparency and scientific objectivity. The Union organises events, conferences, education and information campaigns; it promotes and supports research and scientific studies, and takes all action aimed at raising awareness of sustainable palm oil production and distribution among institutions, the media and the heads of economic and social bodies interested, in various capacities, in the topic.

MEMBERS
Bunge Loders Croklaan, Ferrero S.p.A., ISF Italy S.r.l., Nestlé Italiana S.p.A. and Unigrà S.r.l. The trade associations belonging to the Union are: UNIONFOOD (the Italian Food Union) and ASSITOL (the Italian Oil Industry Association). Union members are responsible for over 90% of the palm oil used in the Italian food sector.

COOPERATION
The Union carries out its activities with the support of the European Palm Oil Alliance (EPOA) and IDH The Sustainable Trade Initiative, and in collaboration with the network of organisations that promote sustainable palm oil in the various EU member states and the trade associations operating in palm oil producing countries.
Palm Oil in Italy

According to the latest report by the European Palm Oil Alliance (EPOA), 86% of Palm Oil imported into Europe in 2019 for food, animal feed and oleochemical purposes was already RSPO-certified sustainable.

In Italy, 1,411,000 tonnes of palm oil were used in 2019 (an 11% increase on the previous year). 7% was used in the cosmetics and home care sector, 15% in the food sector and 78% for industrial technical uses.

*Use of palm oil by sector*

It is estimated that approximately 93% of the palm oil used in Italy in 2019 came from sustainable sources: 14% was RSPO Segregated (SG) certified\(^1\), 1% was RSPO Mass Balance (MB)\(^2\), 1% met the No Deforestation, No Peat, No Exploitation (NDPE) policy\(^3\) and 77% was certified by the International Sustainability & Carbon Certification (ISCC).

Palm oil produced in Indonesia and Malaysia, which covers about 85% of the world’s supply, is also subject to mandatory certification according to their respective national schemes (Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil - ISPO and Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO)).

Source: Italian Union for Sustainable Palm Oil estimates

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\(^1\) RSPO Segregated (SG): sustainable palm oil from various certified sources is kept separate from non-certified palm oil throughout the supply chain.

\(^2\) RSPO Mass Balance (MB): sustainable palm oil from certified sources is mixed with non-certified palm oil along the supply chain.

\(^3\) No Deforestation, No Peat and No Exploitation (NDPE): no deforestation, no peatland drainage, no exploitation of workers.
In 2019, 92% of palm oil used in the food sector in Italy was RSPO-certified sustainable; of this 98% was RSPO Segregated (SG) and 2% was RSPO Mass Balance (MB). The remaining 8% originated from supply chains that satisfied the No Deforestation, No Peat and No Exploitation (NDPE) criteria.

*Use of sustainable palm oil in the food sector*

The figures confirm the progressive achievement of the goal set by the Union for itself in 2015 when it signed the Amsterdam Declaration: 100% sustainable palm oil by the end of 2020.

The three-year period from 2017 to 2019 saw the amount of RSPO-certified palm oil used in the food industry as a percentage of all palm oil used more than double, from 43% to 92%. 

*Source: Italian Union for Sustainable Palm Oil estimates*
HOW MANY COMPANIES IN ITALY ARE THERE (AND WHO ARE THEY) WHICH SUPPORT RSPO-CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL?

Italy is the 5th country in the world in terms of number of RSPO-associated organisations. In 2020, it has 226 RSPO members (data updated in September), an increase of 10 on the previous year (+4%)⁴. Figures for the year include 154 Supply Chain Certified (SCC) production sites (+3 compared to the previous year) and 17 new licences for Traders & Distributors.

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⁴ – Also Ferrero and Nestlé are included, even though these companies are registered in other countries.
PROSPECTS AND CRITICAL ASPECTS

SUSTAINABILITY IS IMPROVING
According to the latest Impact Report published by the RSPO (September 2020), the number of associated companies has grown steadily over the years, as has the number of hectares of certified palm oil plantations. As at 31 August 2020, the organisation had 4,866 members across 98 countries (+6% compared to 2019) with 4.41 million hectares certified, an increase of 6% on the previous year. The amount of RSPO-certified palm oil as a percentage of the global total has also grown, and stands at 19% for the current year. The number of licences to use the RSPO trademark issued across the world has increased to 1,059 (31 July 2020, +10% compared to 2019). These licences allow companies to positively advertise their use of certified sustainable palm oil to their customers and consumers.

In Italy, the proportion of RSPO-certified sustainable palm oil used as a percentage of total palm oil use is growing. There has also been an increase in the number of Italian companies involved and the number of licences to use the RSPO trademark: 27 in 2016, 34 in 2017, 47 in 2018 and 53 in 2019 (+11% compared to 2018). RSPO membership has grown constantly and steadily: in 2014, there were 80 registered RSPO members in Italy, growing to 141 in 2015, 201 in 2016 and 223 in 2017. Membership stood at 198 in 2018, and reached 216 in 2019. As at September 2020, the figure was 226 (+4%).

Achieving full sustainability will require greater involvement by the retail sector, which through own-brand products exercises significant influence over its partners. It will also be essential to align national and local policies (e.g. public tenders for school canteens and catering, and automatic vending machines) with EU Guidelines on Green Public Procurement (GPP), which already establish sustainability certification requirements for all vegetable oils and fats and pre-packaged products in which they are used as ingredients.

CRITICAL ASPECTS
✦ Palm oil vilification campaigns (media, politics) not backed by scientific evidence
✦ Widespread use of the “palm oil free” claim
✦ Public debate focused mainly on the topic of health and nutritional aspects
✦ Little awareness among consumers of the existence of sustainability certification
✦ Poor recognisability of products containing certified sustainable palm oil
✦ Voluntary certification system
ITALIAN COMPANIES ASSOCIATED WITH RSPO
(ITALIAN RSPO MEMBERS, SEPTEMBER 2020)\(^5\)

A
A-27 SpA
A. Gandola & C. S.p.A
A. & A. Fili Parodi S.p.A.
A.I.A. - Agricola Italiana Alimentare - S.p.A.
ABARIBI S.r.l.
ABS FOOD S.r.l.
Adibro Group S.r.l.
Agricola Tre Valli - Società Cooperativa
Agro Trading S.r.l.
ALIBERT 1967 S.r.l
Alimentari Naviglio S.r.l.
AMICA CHIPS S.p.A.
ANTAARRS S.p.A.
Antica Pasticceria Artigianale S.r.l.
Aromatic S.r.l
Artterra Bioscience S.r.l
ARTIGIANA GENOVESE S.r.l.
ASOLO DOLCE S.p.A.
ATLANTE S.r.l.
Axpo Italia S.p.A.
Azienda Chimica E Farmaceutica S.p.A.
Aziende Dolciarie Riunite S.p.A

B
Babbi S.r.l.
B.B.C. S.r.l.
B.C. S.r.l.
BAULI S.p.A.
Biancoforno S.p.A.
BIOCHIMICA S.p.A.
Biofarma S.p.A.
Biohense Srls
BLUE CITY S.r.l.
BONOMI S.p.A.
Bottoli S.p.A. Industria Panificazione

C
C.D.T. Compagnia Dolciaria Tomarchio S.r.l.
Casa del Gelato S.r.l.
Casa Olearia Italiana S.p.A.
Casalini S.r.l.

CHEMICAL FLACER S.r.l.
CIP 4 S.r.l.
CLAUDIO SAVINI & FIGLI S.r.l.
CLECA - S.p.A.
Connect Chemicals Italia S.r.l.
Consorzio Casalasco Del Pomodoro Società Agricola Cooperativa
Converting Wet Wipes S.r.l.
COSMHHOTEL S.r.l.
Cosmopject S.p.A
Cosmosol S.r.l.

D
D + F S.R.L. S.p.A.
D.LAZZARONI & C S.p.A.
DAL COLLE SPA INDUSTRIA DOLCIARIA PER BREVITA DAL COLLE S.p.A.
DECO INDUSTRIE SOCIETA’ COOPERATIVA PER AZIONI IN SIGLA DECO INDUSTRIE S.COOP.P.A.
Delizie Bakery S.r.l.
Dolciaria Acquaviva S.p.A.
Dolciaria Ambrosiana S.r.l.
DOLCIARIA SALOMONI S.r.l.
DOLCIFICIO GI&SSE S.r.l.
Domus Chemicals S.p.A.
DPC S.P.A.
Dr. Schär AG

E
E.R.C.A. - Esperienze Ricerche Chimiche Applicate - S.p.A.
Ecopol S.p.A.
EIGENMANN & VERONELLI S.p.A.
ERCA WILMAR COSMETIC INGREDIENTS S.r.l.
ERIKA EIS S.r.l.
Eulip S.p.A.
EUROSIREL S.p.A.
EUROSPIN ITALIA S.p.A.
Eurotrading S.p.A.
Everton S.p.a.

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5 — Also Ferrero S.p.A. and Nestlé Italiana S.p.A. are included as members of the Union, even though these companies are registered in other countries.
F
F.LLI MILAN S.r.l.
FACI CORPORATE S.p.A.
Ferrero S.p.A.
FETTE DI SOLE S.r.l.
FIRMA ITALIA S.p.A
FIS S.r.l.
FORNERIA GUSPARO S.p.A.
Forno D'Asolo S.p.A.
Franciacorta Creme S.p.A.
FREDDI DOLCIARIA - S.p.A.
Fresystem S.p.A.
G
G.M. PICCOLI S.p.A
Gambino Industrie Alimentari S.p.A.
Gamma Chimica S.p.A.
GANDOLA BISCOTTI S.p.A.
Gastronomica Roscio S.r.l.
Gelco S.r.l.
General Fruit S.r.l.
Gioma Varo S.r.l.
Giovanni Rana S.p.A.
Giusto Faravelli S.p.A.
GRANAROLO S.p.A.
GREEN OLEO S.r.l.
Grissin Bon S.p.A.
GRISSINIFICIO ZINGONIA S.r.l.
GRISSITALIA S.r.l.
Gruppo Desa S.p.A.
Gustibus Alimentari S.r.l.
H
HDI Holding Dolciaria Italiana S.p.A.
Hygan SRL
I
I.D.P. S.r.l.
Icam S.p.A.
IDB SRL Industria Dolciaria Borsari
IDCAM S.r.l.
IL MANGIARUSANO S.p.A.
IL VECCHIO FORNO S.r.l.
Industria Alimentare Ferraro S.r.l.
Industria Chimica Panzeri S.r.l.
INDUSTRIA CONO ARTIC S.r.l.
Intercos S.p.A.
I.P.S.A. - INDUSTRIA PER LA PREPARAZIONE DI PRODOTTI SPECIALI PER
L'ALIMENTAZIONE S.p.A.
IRCA S.p.A
ICEA
ITALCANDITI S.p.A.
Italmatch Chemicals S.p.A.
Italmill S.p.A.
J
JACKLON S.A.S
Jesol Dolce S.r.l.
K
Kalichem S.r.l.
Koch Di Gojer Peter & C.S.N.C. - O.H.G.
KOSMAG S.r.l.
Kondital s.r.l.
L
L'ERBOLARIO S.r.l.
Laica S.p.A.
LAMBERTI S.P.A.
Lameri S.p.A.
Latteria Noem S.r.l.
LE CASELLE S.p.A.
Lema S.r.l.
Liodry Foods
Lona S.r.l.
LUNIK STAR S.r.l.
M
MAINA PANETTONI S.p.A.
MARISTELLA S.r.l.
Martinucci S.r.l.
Maycos Italiana S.r.l.
MENZ & GASSER S.p.A.
MIDI' S.r.l.
MIL MIL 76 S.p.A.
Molini Pivetti S.p.A.
Montebianco S.p.A
Monvisio S.r.l.
N
N.&B. S.r.l. Società Benefit
Nestlé Italiana S.p.A.
Newchem S.r.l.
NSW Toscana Trading S.r.l
NUOVA INDUSTRIA BISCOTTI CRICH S.p.A.
NUOVA PASTICCERIA TORINO S.r.l.
NUOVA RUGGERI S.r.l.
NUTKAO S.r.l.
Oleiificio Salvadori S.r.l.
OLEIFICIO SPERONI
Oleiificio Zucchi S.p.A.
Oleogen S.r.l.
O-PAC S.r.l.
OLFOOD S.p.A
Optima S.p.A.
Packaging Imolese S.p.A.
PALPELLA DOLCIARIA S.r.l.
Paluani S.p.A.
PAN Surgelati S.r.l.
PANEALBA S.r.l.
Panettoni Giovanni Cova & C. S.r.l.
PAREN S.r.l.
Pasticceria Quadrifoglio S.r.l.
PELLEGRINI S.r.l.
Perfetti Van Melle Group B.V
Pharma Cosm Polli Srl In Breve P.C.P. S.r.l.
PLUGI. S.r.l.
Pratogel S.r.l.
Préalpi S.p.A.
Prochimica Novarese SpA
Prodotti Gianni S.r.l.
Qoress S.r.l.
QR Ingredients S.r.l.
QUALITY FOOD GROUP S.p.A.
RACHELLI ITALIA S.r.l.
RADER S.p.A.
Re.Le.Vi S.p.A.
Res Novare S.r.l.
Res Pharma s.r.l
Res Pharma industriale S.r.l.
RICCI S.p.A.
RICCIARELLI S.p.A.
RICHETTI S.p.A.
ROBERTO INDUSTRIA ALIMENTARE S.r.l.
Roncadin S.p.A.
SAAR DEPOSITI PORTUALI SPA
S.A.L.P.A. Di Cherubini Domenico & C. S.A.S.
SACI Industrie S.p.A.
SACMAR S.r.l.
Sammontana S.p.A.
San Giorgio S.p.A.
SAPONIFICIO RONDINELLA S.r.l.
Seligex S.r.l.
SFOGLIA TORINO S.r.l.
SIA Società Italiana Alimenti S.p.A.
SILA S.r.l.
Sintesi E Ricerca S.p.A
SIPA S.p.A.
SIPRAL PADANA S.p.A.
SO.G.I.S. INDUSTRIA CHIMICA S.p.A.
SOAVEGEL S.r.l.
SOCADO S.r.l.
Società Italiana Prodotti Alimentari Hygeia S.R.L.
Solo Italia S.r.l.
SPECIALITIES S.r.l.
Spiga Nord S.p.A.
STABINGER S.r.l.
Supermercati Cadoro S.p.A.
TATE & LYLE ITALIA S.p.A.
Tedesco S.r.l.
TELLERINI S.p.A.
Temix Oleo S.r.l.
Cooperlat Società Coop. Agricola
Unichips Italia S.p.A.
Unigel S.a.S.
UNIGEL S.r.l.
Unigra S.r.l.
UNIONGRISS S.r.l.
VICENZI S.p.A.
Voltan Way S.p.A.
WAFFELMAN S.r.l.
WITOR’S S.p.A.
Zangrando S.r.l.
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