

A different palm oil production is possible!

Practical international solidarity with Indonesian palm oil workers.

How can an alliance between climate activists and trade unions work together across national borders to bring about a more socially and environmentally sustainable palm oil industry?

Palm oil is a key raw material for a whole range of value chains, foremost among them the food industry. German companies mostly use palm oil that is certified as sustainable (RSPO). However, through our cooperation with the 'Transnational Palm Oil Labour Solidarity' (TPOLS) network, we know that even certified companies rely on large-scale monocultures, low wages and precarious working conditions. The TPOLS network, together with Indonesian palm oil workers, has developed a vision for a socio-ecological transformation of the palm oil industry ('[Just Transition](#)'). At its heart are greater social justice (e.g. gender equality and better pay for women) and more environmentally friendly production, moving away from monocultures and the use of pesticides.

In this workshop, we aim to explore possibilities for an alliance between civil society, the environmental movement and trade unions. With the help of the TPOLS network, we will identify key problem areas within the Indonesian palm oil industry in order to discuss potential solutions.

The Supply Chain Act could be a useful tool for this transition. Large corporations based in Germany, such as Nestlé or Unilever, are obliged under the Supply Chain Act to prevent serious human rights violations, including those committed by their suppliers. Following a presentation on experiences to date with the Supply Chain Act (the palm oil case in Guatemala), we want to work together to explore how the Act can be applied in practice, how works councils, trade unions and civil society can collaborate in this regard, and what steps are necessary to develop a practice of solidarity with Indonesian workers.

10.00-10.30	Arrival and introductions	
10.30-11.00	Just Transition in the palm oil industry: towards a transnational alliance between the climate and labour movements	Input 1: Introduction to the project (Watch Indonesia) Input 2: What does the NGG do and why is it involved in the project? (Sarah Richter, NGG Cologne)
11.00-11.30	Coffee break	
11.30-13.00	Women, water, wages, and climate change—identifying problem areas and potential solutions	Exchange and discussion with TPOLS members from Indonesia
13.00-14.00	Lunch	
14.00 – 15.00	Experiences to date with the Supply Chain Act in the palm oil sector – the example of Guatemala	Presentation by Ingrid Heinlein
15.00-15.30	Coffee break	

15.30-17.30	Practical implementation: what concrete steps can works councils, trade unionists, civil society and activists take?	Small group discussions and plenary
17.00-17.30	Closing remarks and check-out	