

# ORIGIN OF LAND STATUS, HISTORY OF LANDUSE AND DEVELOPMENT OF OIL PALM PLANTATION LAND COVER

The 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Natural  
Resources and Environmental Conservation

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## Summary

- ▶ In summary, the history of land use and the development of oil palm plantations in Indonesia is a complex story that involves the interplay of economic interests, political changes, and environmental concerns.
- ▶ The industry has significantly transformed the country's economic landscape, but it has also raised important challenges related to deforestation and environmental degradation.
- ▶ The government has taken steps to address some of these issues through policies like the 2018 moratorium on oil palm permits and sustainability initiatives.

## Publication in 1983 and 2002

- ▶ In Indonesia alang-alang occupies a vast area where improper shifting cultivation is a common agricultural practice and where forest logging is not properly followed by forest rehabilitation.

(Soerjani, M., et al. "Imperata Research and Management in Indonesia." Mountain Research and Development, vol. 3, no. 4, 1983, pp. 397-404. JSTOR, <https://doi.org/10.2307/3673046>. Accessed 21 Oct. 2023.)

- ▶ From Imperata cylindrica Grasslands to Productive Agroforestry. (Murniati, 2002; From Imperata cylindrical Grasslands to Productive Agroforestry. Thesis Wageningen University, The Netherlands - with summaries in English, Dutch and Indonesian).

## Publication in 2013

- ▶ **OIL PALM AND LAND USE CHANGE IN INDONESIA, MALAYSIA AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

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## Pre-Suharto and Suharto Era

- ▶ **Pre-Suharto Era**: Before the Suharto Era (1966-1998), natural forests covered a significant portion of Indonesia, especially in the outer islands like Java. Java, in particular, had planted teak forests that dominated its forested landscapes.
- ▶ **New Investment Law**: The introduction of new investment laws in 1967, such as Law No. 01 and the Basic Forestry Law (Act No. 5 of 1967), marked the beginning of modern forest exploitation in Indonesia. This legislation likely encouraged foreign investments in the country's forestry sector.
- ▶ **Forest Industry Boom**: In the following years, particularly in the 1980s, the forest industry in Indonesia experienced significant growth. More than 550 forest concessions were granted during this period, covering around 64 million hectares of production forest. This industry played a crucial role in shaping the country's economic landscape but also led to environmental and forest degradation.
- ▶ **Rapid Expansion of Oil Palm Plantations**: The expansion of oil palm plantations in Indonesia gained momentum in the 1990s, primarily in Sumatra and Kalimantan. This expansion was supported by initiatives like the World Bank's transmigration program and contract farming with large oil palm companies.

## Post Suharto Era

- ▶ **Post-Suharto Era Expansion**: After the Suharto Era ended in 1998, the expansion of oil palm plantations continued. Many of these plantations were established in abandoned forest concessions, which had become available due to factors like the economic crisis, rampant illegal logging, and political influences on spatial planning.
- ▶ **Government Interventions**: To address the environmental and governance issues associated with oil palm development, the Indonesian government imposed a moratorium on oil palm plantation permits in 2018. This effectively slowed down the expansion of oil palm development by large companies.
- ▶ **Smallholder Farmer Growth**: Despite the moratorium, smallholder farmers continued to be involved in oil palm cultivation, contributing to the growth of the industry.
- ▶ **Sustainability Initiatives**: Efforts toward sustainability in the oil palm sector have been ongoing, with various initiatives aimed at mitigating the negative environmental and social impacts of oil palm cultivation.

Year	Forest Concession Unit (HPH)	Area (Million Ha)	Era
1980	519	53.00	Suharto
1992	580	61.38	Suharto
2000	362	39.16	Reform
2001	351	36.42	Reform
2002	270	28.08	Reform
2003	267	27.80	Reform
2004	287	27.82	Reform
2005	285	27.72	Reform
2006	322	28.78	Reform
2007	323	28.16	Reform
2008	308	25.90	Reform
2009	304	25.66	Reform
2010	304	24.95	Reform
2011	295	23.24	Reform
2012	294	23.90	Reform
2013	286	22.80	Reform
2014	275	20.69	Reform
2015	269	20.62	Reform
2016	265	20.88	Reform

1992	580 Units	61.38 Million Ha
2010	304 Units	24.95 Million Ha
2015	269 Units	20.62 Million Ha
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1992-2015	311 Units	40.76 Million ha
Reduction	53%	66%

Status of the 'open access' production forests (without any permit) - 40.76 Million hectares

## Cogon Grass (*Imperata cylindrica*)

- ▶ Due to inappropriate land management systems, much of this area (land adjacent to forest zones) has been abandoned and invaded by *Imperata cylindrica*, the most common weed in the tropics.
- ▶ Today, *I. cylindrica* covers an area of more than 8.5 million ha in Indonesia alone (*Soekardi et al. 1993; Garrity et al. 1997*).
- ▶ *I. cylindrica* is able to invade areas that will not support other vegetation, as it can tolerate a wide range of soil and climatic conditions (*Hubbard et al. 1944; Eussen and Wirjahardja 1973; Evans et al. 2007*)

## Research Questions

- ▶ Where are those cogon grasslands now? Are they still occupy large landscape in Indonesia?
- ▶ Oil palm plantations are the existing productive agro forestry, despite of its super productivity, why this crops is being discriminated nationally and internationally?
- ▶ In regard to climate change, why the role of 16.3 million hectares of oil palm plantations - as a result of conversion from degraded, invaded by cogon grass, and abandon - were ignored of their role as carbon sequestration plantations?

## AI response (among 7 reasons)

- ▶ **Public Perception and Controversy:**  
The palm oil industry has faced substantial criticism for its environmental and social impacts, leading to public concern and calls for increased regulation.
- ▶ This controversy can overshadow potential positive aspects, including carbon sequestration, and lead to skepticism about the industry's claims.

# Summary

- ▶ The history of land use and the development of oil palm plantations in Indonesia is a complex story that involves the interplay of economic interests, political changes, sectoral ego, and environmental concerns.
- ▶ The industry has significantly transformed the country's economic landscape, but it has also raised important challenges related to deforestation and environmental degradation.
- ▶ The government has taken steps to address some of these issues through policies like the 2018 moratorium on oil palm permits and sustainability initiatives.
- ▶ Permanent Moratorium of permits to the use of natural forests and peatlands, is now totaling of 66 Million Hectares.



**THE 4<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**

**CALL FOR PAPERS AND POSTERS**  
**"Origin of Land Status, History of Land Use, and Development of Plantation Land Cover"**

**OPENING SPEECH**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Dr. Musdhalifah Macmud, MT\***  
 Deputy for Food and Agribusiness Coordinating Ministry of Economic Affairs RI

**Prof. Dr. Naresworo Nugroho, M.Sc**  
 Dean of Faculty of Forestry and Environment IPB University

**Henriette Faergemann \***  
 First Counselor – Environment, Climate Action, Digital Strategy to comply with the European Union Deforestation Free Regulation (EUDR)

**Dr. Prayudi Syamsuri, S.P, M.Si**  
 Director of Plantation Product Processing and Marketing, Ministry of Agriculture  
 Agriculture Ministry Response to EUDR

**Dr. Jean-Marc Roda**  
 French Agriculture Research Center for International Development (CIHAD)  
 Is it true that oil palm plantation area in Indonesia comes from deforestation?

**Ir. Petrus Gunarso, M.Sc, Ph.D, IPU**  
 Relawan Jaringan Rimbawan  
 Origin of Land Status, History of Land Use, and Development of Oil Palm Plantation Land Cover

**Ir. Ing. Bart W van Assen**  
 KAYON  
 Is it true that Indonesian oil palm plantations originate from deforestation of tropical forests

**Prof. Dr. Ir. Yanto Santosa, DEA**  
 Division of Bioprospecting and Sustainable Wildlife Utilization IPB University  
 Initial insights into deforestation verification/certification methods

\*: To be confirmed

**IMPORTANT DATE**

7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	25 <sup>th</sup> Oct	26 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Location
Abstract Submission	Abstract Acceptance Notification	Conference Participant Registration Deadline	Fullpaper Submission Deadline	Conference Date	IPB International Convention Center Bogor, Indonesia

**OBJECT** oilm palm, soya, wood, cocoa, coffee, cattle, rubber

**REGISTRATION LINK:** <https://bit.ly/ICNREC2023>

**SUB THEME**

- Origin of the land status of plantation
- History of land use prior to plantation
- Development/dynamics of land cover prior to its use as plantation
- Initiation methods for verification and certification of plantation deforestation
- Supply chain analysis of palm oil mill feedstock

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# Relawan Jaringan Rimbawan Forester Network Volunteers