



Organic PalmFruit™ shortening and oils comes from near the mouth of the Amazon River in Brazil. They are produced by Agropalma and distributed in North America by CIRANDA Inc. of Hudson, Wisconsin under the PalmFruit™ brand.

Agropalma's organic palm oil is certified by IBD Brazil as NOP & EU Organic and EcoSocial, a certification program for fair relations in trading socially and environmentally certified products. (www.ecosocialnet.com/index2.php?area=home&lg=en). EcoSocial certification is based on standards established by ILO, IFOAM, FLO, SA 8.000 and SASA Project recommendations, besides working upon principles established by international agreements related to social & environmental management, such as Agenda 21, Global Pact Program, Millennium Declaration, Earth Charter and Human Rights Declaration.

To be considered for certification, Agropalma first passed a detailed review process that assessed compliance with Brazilian environmental and labor laws. Once accepted for an on-site audit, the audit also verified that Agropalma makes additional, significant investments in programs of human and social development for employees, farmers and neighborhood communities, as well as programs of environmental conservation.

Based on the local needs identified in the EcoSocial certification audit, Agropalma is investing resources in environmental and social programs. A committee composed of employees, farmers and an IBD staff member determine the annual priorities and goals. For the current EcoSocial certification cycle, Agropalma's environmental priority has been put on the Forest Reserves Protection and Fauna Monitoring Programs. The Social priority has been put on the Superior Education and Agropalma School Programs.

Participation by manufacturers in the EcoSocial certification system allows customers who are concerned about sustainability issues to be sure that the extra costs they pay for EcoSocial certified products will be used in actions for improving life quality and environmental conservation in places where it really matters.

"In other words, by buying EcoSocial certified palm oil, companies and consumers can contribute to ecologically sustainable and socially fair development in the region, confident that the projects will be carried out by AgroPalma and audited by IBD", says Tulio Dias, Agropalma Social and Environmental Responsibility Manager.

Due to the proximity of the production area to the major city of Belem, most forests have been cleared over the past several hundred years. Since 2001, Agropalma has developed new palm areas only by restoring lands that had been previously degraded through their use as pastures. It is important to note that sixty (60 %) of the land that Agropalma owns remains in forest, as called for under Brazilian law. This forest is mostly secondary growth due to centuries of European settlement.

Biological monitoring of the flora and fauna of Agropalma lands is on-going and accomplished in cooperation with the University of Sao Paulo. Due to improved management, the number of bird species has increased from 338 in 2003 to 406 in 2008, while the number of mammal species has increased from 27 to 37 over the same time frame. The golden parrot, the national bird of Brazil is one of the species that has been repatriated.

CIRANDA (www.ciranda.com) is the sole North American palm supplier to sign on to Rainforest Action Network's pledge to support a moratorium on the expansion of palm oil plantations into tropical forests. A team from RAN visited AgroPalma in early February 2008. For more information see the RAN website at: http://ran.org/the_problem_with_palm_oil/the_pledge/.



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