

Position Paper

January 2020

erlenbacher backwaren

PALM OIL

Since 2009, erlenbacher backwaren has specifically been addressing the question of sustainability. In our strategic orientation and products and in our daily activities we wish to be as good as possible to human beings and animals and to handle the environment and resources with as much responsibility as possible. We believe that this is an ongoing learning process, one which can never be fully completed.

We welcome the fact that our business partners also pursue and support these aims, and we require that they be met. We appreciate suggestions and ideas on these matters. We accept them with pleasure since they help us to learn something new and to further develop ourselves.

For many years now, erlenbacher has been cooperating with selected, regularly audited producers to ensure the highest possible standard of food safety. We are members of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and in October 2015 we passed the RSPO initial audit for mass balance (MB) and segregated (SG) supply chain models. We purchase the pure palm oil we use and the majority of our raw materials containing palm oil as RSPO SG certified goods. Our declared aim is to likewise convert the few remaining raw materials containing palm oil to RSPO SG if possible. Through collaboration with the RSPO we support the sustainable cultivation of palm oil (www.rspo.org).

We have several reasons for not sharing the view frequently presented in the media that palm oil should be replaced in general. Technologically feasible alternatives are usually chemically hydrogenated fats, which are generally considered to be extremely negative from a nutritional point of view. The cultivation of other fats is also currently clearly less structured and disclosed, so we believe that their effects in terms of sustainability must be considered to be clearly worse. Besides, the yield of oil palms is several times higher than that of other plants used for oil extraction, so replacing palm would result in a clear need for larger areas.

Since the question of sustainability is very important to use, we will continue to observe palm as a raw material as well as developments concerning potential alternatives. We are open for an exchange of ideas and experience concerning this matter as well.

As a partner enterprise in the ZNU (German Centre for Sustainable Corporate Management of Witten/Herdecke University), we regularly exchange information, on the one hand with academics and on the other hand with other producers operating in the food industry. We thus ensure that we remain in a position to be able to identify and take account of relevant sustainability issues.

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