



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**News Release**

## **Strengthening Children’s Rights and Protection in Palm Oil** *Collaborative Effort by Industry Leaders in Prioritising Children Living in Plantations*

**Singapore, 28 June 2021** – Wilmar International Limited (Wilmar) is progressing to the next phase of work on children’s rights and protection by piloting the [Child Protection Policy Implementation Manual<sup>1</sup>](#) on plantations in Indonesia and Malaysia, in partnership with the international non-profit, BSR. The development and implementation of the manual is supported by consumer goods companies, which include Burt’s Bees, Nestlé, Procter & Gamble, PepsiCo, Unilever, and Nestlé, among others. An implementation manual specific for the Malaysian foreign worker context will also be developed.

BSR will be working alongside The Centre for Child Rights and Business and Earthworm Foundation as implementation partners for the pilots in selected oil palm plantations in Indonesia and Malaysia.

The manual is applicable to the wider agriculture industry and aims to guide upstream oil palm operations in Indonesia and Malaysia, which include Wilmar’s suppliers, towards a better understanding of the steps required to protect and safeguard children’s rights. The practical applicability of the manual will be tested and assessed in an effort to build capacity within the industry to address child protection. Key lessons from the assessment of the pilot will then be shared with Wilmar’s supplier base in both these countries.

Perpetua George, General Manager of Group Sustainability for Wilmar, said, “Defining practical and sustainable solutions is a significant step towards eliminating child labour from the palm oil industry, while ensuring that children’s rights continue to be protected. With the continued commitment and support from consumer goods companies since 2019, we are able to demonstrate the importance and positive impacts resulting from collective action.”

She further added, “We are pleased to be able to collaborate with our supply chain to pilot the implementation of the manual. We encourage the rest of the industry to also consider adopting the manual as we strive and work collectively towards our shared goal of safeguarding the rights and wellbeing of children living in plantations with their families”.

“By integrating child protection into standards, actions and investments, our collaboration with Wilmar and our implementation partners – The Centre for Child Rights and Business and Earthworm Foundation – will help to safeguard children’s rights,” said Jeremy Prepiscus, Vice President, Asia-Pacific for BSR. “This collaborative approach will help to set the standard for the implementation of child rights protections by buyers and suppliers in the palm oil sector.”

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<sup>1</sup> Wilmar’s Child Protection Policy Implementation Manual: <https://bit.ly/3r7BFKy>

The published manual was developed following several rounds of stakeholder consultations with child protection authorities, non-governmental organisation (NGO) experts, unions, and international organisations such as the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). The manual is designed to be comprehensive and pragmatic to facilitate implementation while incorporating pictorial field guidance for universal understanding. A series of workshops attended by 190 participants was also organised to build capacity and guide Wilmar's suppliers towards better understanding of child protection within their operations.

## **ABOUT WILMAR'S SUSTAINABILITY**

As a leading agribusiness group, Wilmar recognises that we have a fundamental role to play in developing quality products required by the world while ensuring we have a responsible and sustainable manner of production. We adopt a holistic approach to sustainability that is fully integrated with our business model.

Guided by the philosophy that our business must enhance stakeholder value while minimizing our environmental footprint, our business practices are aligned with universally acceptable social and environmental standards. Wilmar's No Deforestation, No Peat, No Exploitation<sup>2</sup> (NDPE) Policy underpins our aspiration to make a positive impact and drive transformation across the palm oil industry.

For more information, please visit [www.wilmar-international.com/sustainability](http://www.wilmar-international.com/sustainability).

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.wilmar-international.com/sustainability/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/No-Deforestation-No-Peat-No-Exploitation-Policy.pdf>