

## Consequences of growing palm oil trees

### Information sheet B – Palm oil briefing

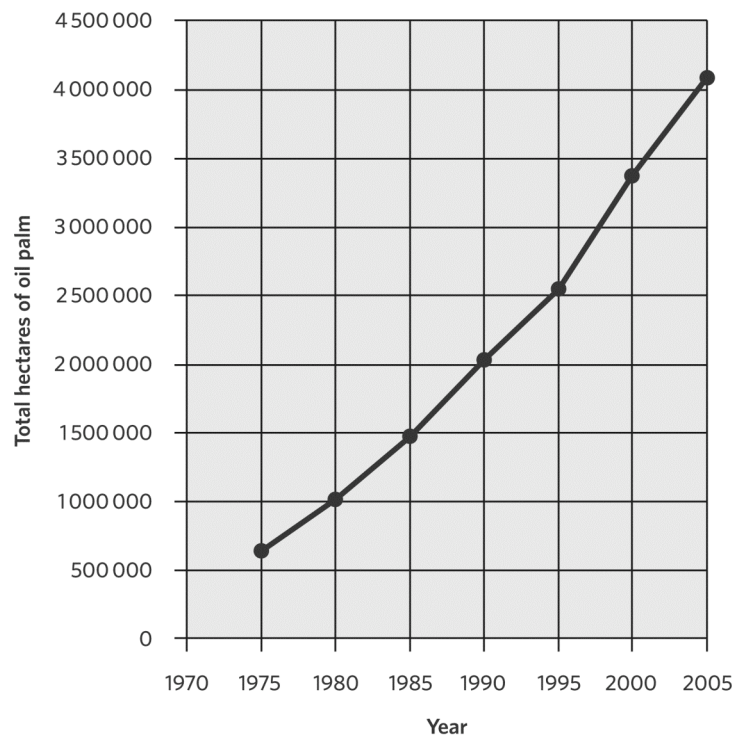
In 2006 in Malaysia 4 165 215 hectares of land were planted with palm oil trees. These trees produced 15 880 487 tonnes of crude palm oil. 14 403 845 tonnes of this oil was exported to other countries. The sale of this oil earned 22 653.4 million Malaysian Ringgits (over 3 million pounds).

**Palm oil** is used to make **food** (for example, margarine, confectionery), **soaps**, **detergents** and **cosmetics** and for frying **snack foods**. Palm oil is also used to make **biodiesel**. Biodiesel is a **renewable** energy source and is less **polluting** than **fossil fuels**. Many governments are however only interested in the fact that biofuels provide an alternative to fossil fuels.

To make space for palm oil plantations, more and more **forest** needs to be cut down. Forests remove **carbon dioxide** and release **oxygen** during **photosynthesis**.

Forests contain a large percentage of the world's **biodiversity** – including animals like orang-utans, tigers and pandas, millions of insects and plants. Many of the world's medicines, like quinine are made from rainforest trees. We may destroy a **species** of plant that could contain a future life saving **drug**.

Forests also provide local people with **fuel** for cooking and heating.



Data obtained from <http://mpob.gov.my> the website of the Malaysian Palm Oil Board