JOINT STATEMENT

FOREST, AGRICULTURE AND COMMODITY TRADE (FACT) DIALOGUE

The Forest, Agriculture, and Commodity Trade (FACT) Dialogue is a key intergovernmental initiative uniting 28 producer and consumer countries of internationally traded agricultural commodities such as beef, cocoa, palm oil, soybean, and timber. Its mission is to encourage the implementation of sustainable trade practices, protect forests and ecosystems, while simultaneously addressing global climate and biodiversity challenges.

Launched during the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in 2021, the FACT Dialogue strives to promote fair and sustainable trade while safeguarding the environment, supporting livelihoods, and contributing to global sustainability goals through government-to-government collaboration.

The FACT Dialogue addresses these challenges by promoting sustainable trade practices, enhancing traceability and transparency in supply chains, and supporting smallholders to ensure that agricultural production aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing on four (4) key thematic areas - Trade and Market Development, Smallholder Support, Traceability and Transparency, Research, Development and Innovation.

MALAYSIA AS FACT DIALOGUE CO-CHAIR (2025-2026)

Malaysia is honoured to assume the role of Co-Chair, together with the United Kingdom for the 2025–2026 period, following Indonesia’s tenure. Under the leadership of Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani, Minister of Plantation and Commodities, the Ministry will spearhead efforts to reinforce the country's commitment to the sustainable production of agricommodities.

Malaysia, with over 5.7 million hectares of palm oil plantations nationwide including a significant number of smallholders managing approximately 1.5 million hectares, aims to position itself as a benchmark for sustainable production through its national certification scheme, the Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO), that has been one of the Government’s efforts to establish productions that align with the global standards.

We will continue to work hand in hand with the United Kingdom and the 28 member countries toward the development of the four (4) key thematic areas of the FACT

DIALOGUE FACT FORUM 2025: ENHANCING SUPPORT FOR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS

Malaysia is proud to host the FACT Forum 2025 in Putrajaya from 14 to 17 April 2025 under the theme "***Enhancing Support for Smallholder Farmers***". The event will focus on fostering sustainable and innovative solutions for smallholder farmers, promoting their inclusion in traceability and transparency systems, and strengthening collaboration among FACT member countries. Smallholder farmers are the backbone of commodity sectors, and their well-being is essential for economic prosperity and global supply chain stability. Insights gained from this forum will help shape policies and approaches for for smallholder inclusion in sustainable trade, contributing to global discussions at COP30 later in 2025.

STATEMENTS FROM THE FACT DIALOGUE CO-CHAIRS

Malaysia:

"Malaysia is honoured to co-chair the FACT Dialogue for 2025-2026 and is committed to advancing the Roadmap for Action. As a key global commodity player, we recognize the need to balance economic growth with environmental and social responsibility. Our approach is built on ***Shared Responsibility, Shared Prosperity, Towards Sustainability.***

Malaysia will showcase our robust sustainability framework and advocate for international recognition of our national sustainability standards such as MSPO (Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil), MSNR (Malaysian Sustainable Natural Rubber), and MTCS (Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme)."

Johari Abdul Ghani
Minister of Plantation and Commodities, Malaysia

United Kingdom:

"*Developing sustainable trade should mean growth and opportunity for all those along the supply chain, especially smallholder farmers who are key drivers of change in the transition to a sustainable food system. This year's FACT Forum will put tackling the challenges smallholders face at the heart of the discussion.*

I thank Indonesia for co-chairing the FACT Dialogue and welcome Malaysia as our new co-chair. Malaysia is making strides to demonstrate that economic growth does not need to come at the expense of forests or livelihoods."

Kerry McCarthy
Minister for Climate, United Kingdom

Indonesia:

"The FACT Dialogue represents a renewed commitment by the world's largest producing and consuming countries of internationally traded agricultural commodities to collaborate in promoting sustainable development and trade, while preserving our forests and ecosystems. It underscores the ongoing dedication to strengthening partnerships, fostering innovation, and advancing policies that prioritize smallholders' empowerment. By integrating them into sustainable supply chains, we are not only securing their livelihoods but also strengthening the foundation of global agriculture."

"As it is crucial to bring fresh perspectives and energy to ensure the continuity of this initiative, Indonesia is pleased to announce its transition from the role of co-chair and proudly passing the honour to Malaysia."

Airlangga Hartarto
Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, Republic of Indonesia