

Agropalma Group



Location: Pará (Brazil)

Biome: Amazon (Brazil)

Area property (ha): 108,526

Coordinates: -2.5503, -48.7702

Properties

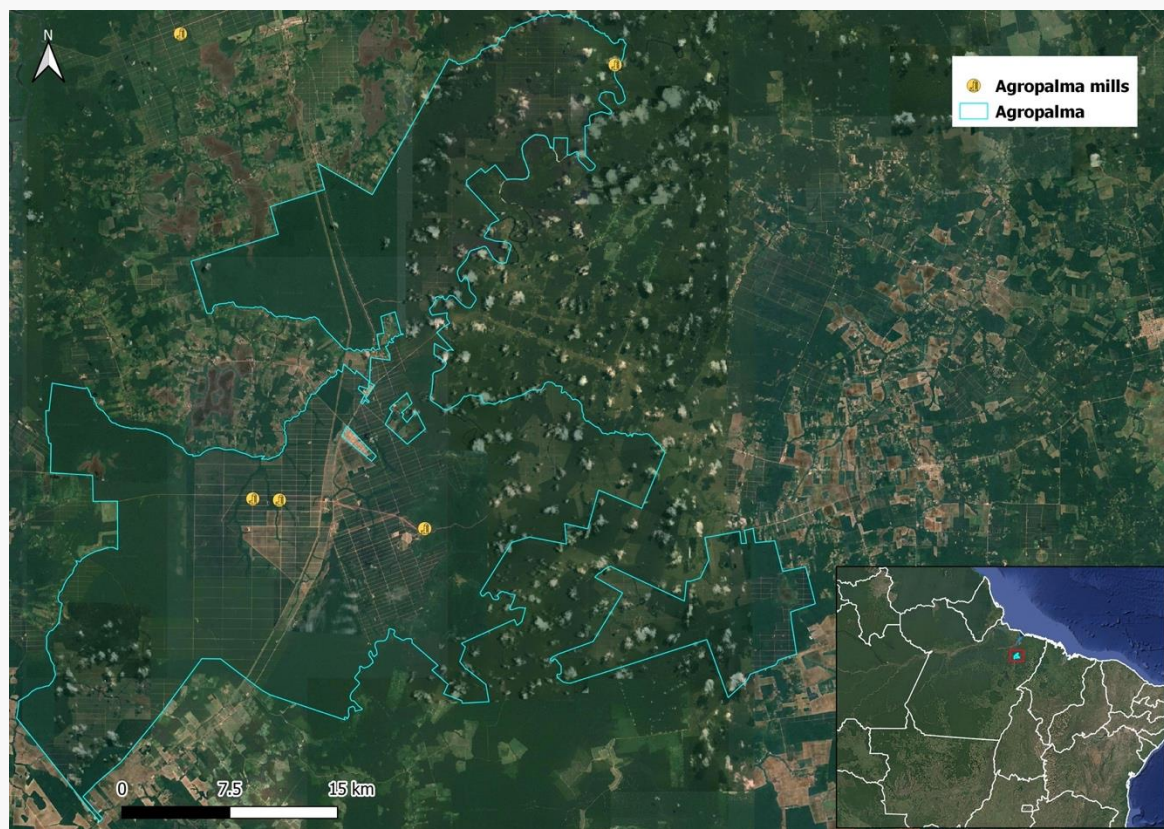


Figure: Palm growers' properties and palm oil mills linked to Agropalma in Pará, Brazil. Coordinates of largest property: 2.5503, -48.7702, which is 98,366 ha in size; coordinates of smaller property next to it on the right: -2.5944, -48.5085, which is 10,160 ha in size. Cargill was in 2021 connected to Agropalma, Brasil Biofuels (BBF), and Palmasa (based on public mill lists). While Cargill has suspended BBF from October 2022, Agropalma was still present in the latest palm oil mill lists of Cargill in 2023, while the company was linked to social impacts and was temporarily suspended by RSPO in 2023.

Agropalma profile

Agropalma is the largest exporter of Brazilian palm oil and exported around 15 percent of its production in 2021, mainly to Europe. The company, founded in 1982 in Tailândia (Pará) under the name Companhia Real Agroindustrial (CRAI), operates five palm oil mills in Pará, two refineries in Pará and São Paulo, and fractionation plants plus two fats and shortenings production units. Of the total 17,057 MT of palm oil shipped in 2020, Agropalma exported 90 percent, with Olenex (7,016 MT) and an unknown customer (7,050 MT), both in Germany, as its main clients. The majority of its production (85 percent) is destined for Brazil's domestic market. In the latest shipment data of 2023, Agropalma only exported 165 MT of palm oil products between 1 August 2023 and 30 November 2023 (might relate to the temporary RSPO suspension), of which 126 MT of crude palm oil to client Care Naturkost in Germany, and 39 MT of palm kernel oil to an unknown client in the U.S.

Agropalma is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Alfa Group, a conglomerate with business segments in finance, hotels, retail, and construction. Agropalma was the only Brazilian palm oil producer selling palm oil certified by the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO).

Agropalma Group



Ownership & Business relationship

Owner:	Company responses
Agropalma	Cargill: The company stated (6 December 2024) that “Cargill is monitoring the implementation of Agropalma’s action plan to ensure compliance through the ART program. Agropalma is currently not part of our RSPO supplier list.”

Environmental fines, embargoes, and suspensions

Embargoes and environmental fines:	No	-
Suspensions	Yes	RSPO temporarily suspended Agropalma in February 2023 for being linked to fraudulent land titles in Pará (2)

Case description

Chain Reaction Research 2021 research on Agropalma (1), led by AidEnvironment, revealed that there was negligible deforestation linked to Agropalma’s oil palm plantations in Brazil till 2020. AidEnvironment's updated screening on all Agropalma’s plantations (total size: 108,526 ha) in Brazil in April 2024 did not reveal any new deforestation since 2021 till March 2024. However, since the CRR publication in 2021, the company’s ESG violations and reputation risk continued to rise, cumulating in an RSPO suspension in February 2023 for being linked to fraudulent land titles in Pará (2). Conflicts with Brazilian communities have been an ongoing issue for Agropalma, as CRR reported in March 2021. A 2022 report from Agência Pública, a Brazilian investigative journalism organization, says that Agropalma’s operating areas has moved onto public lands, putting the company in conflict with local citizens and local communities (3). A court ruled that two of Agropalma’s farms had their registrations revoked because they overlapped with public lands. Similarly, the company has come under criticism in the past for its poor working and labor conditions on the company’s palm oil plantations. Several reports have documented labour issues at Agropalma’s facilities (4). Agropalma has been linked to slave labor in the past, with a well-known case (5) of an Agropalma outgrower, Altino Coelho de Miranda, appearing on a 2013-2015 blacklist for slave labor (6).

Agropalma is still present in Cargill’s palm oil mill lists of the second half of 2023 (7), while in that year the company was linked to social impacts and was suspended by RSPO. On November 2024, Agropalma appears as a certified member by RSPO (8).

- (1) <https://chainreactionresearch.com/6160-2>
- (2) Mongabay (29 March 2023), online: <https://news.mongabay.com/2023/03/rspo-suspension-of-brazil-palm-oil-exporter-tied-to-mongabay-land-grabbing-report/>
- (3) https://apublica.org/2022/08/com-inercia-do-governo-empresas-do-dende-avancam-sobre-terras-publicas-da-amazonia/?utm_source=akna&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=19082022-ClimaInfo-Newsletter#Grilagem
- (4) <https://oabpa.org.br/index.php/artigos/5161-reais-condicoes-de-trabalho-emfazendas-de-cultivo-de-dende-no-para-giussepp-mendes>
- (5) <https://reporterbrasil.org.br/2012/12/denuncias-de-violencia-e-trabalho-escravo-envolvem-cultura-do-dende-no-para/>
- (6) <https://www.business-humanrights.org/fr/demi%C3%A8res-actualit%C3%A9s/brazil-rep%C3%B3rter-brasil-and-inpacto-publish-the-transparency-list-of-forced-labour/>
- (7) <https://www.cargill.com/doc/1432132443976/cargill-palm-mill-list.pdf>
- (8) <https://rspo.org/search-members/certified-growers/>