

An investigation of palm oil within food and beverage outlets at Oxford Brookes University

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Oxford Brookes University have completed a study investigating the presence of palm oil across catering outlets in order to assess the sustainability and traceability of its sources. Data was collected for the year of 2017 and analysis undertaken on 627 dishes, including goods sold 'off the counter' such as confectionary and other snacks.

The study reported:

- 33% of food and beverage products sold at Oxford Brookes University contained palm oil.
- Ninety-one percent (91%) of products containing palm oil were from 3 ingredients: margarine, stock, and vegetable fat.
- Eighty-three percent (83%) of palm oil is found as an ingredient within an ingredient.
- Twelve out of thirteen companies providing products containing palm oil for Oxford Brookes University are members of the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO).

The study recommends that the university consider the type of sustainably certified palm oil being sourced by its suppliers and to encourage suppliers to seek greater levels of palm oil traceability in their respective supply chains, as well as other recommendations around further research and knowledge exchange activities.