

SUGGESTED INTRODUCTION TEXT FOR THE GAME MASTER

The text below can be used in combination with the PowerPoint presentation ([link](#)) as an introduction to the topic and the game. After the introduction, the game should be able to start immediately. Accordingly, all relevant information regarding the course of the game and palm oil cultivation must be provided. The introduction can be adapted or extended at your own discretion.

The teaching units «Getting Started with Products» and «Film Palm Oil from Indonesia» (see Chapter 4), for example, are recommended as good opportunities for getting started and could be carried out immediately before or after assigning roles. If the questionnaires (Appendix 3) are to be used, this should be done as the first employment before the introduction.

Today we deal with the topic palm oil.

Palm oil is a raw material that can be found in many different products. About every second product in the supermarket contains palm oil, such as Nutella, Farmer, Bouillon, candles, soaps, shampoos.

The oil palm from which the palm oil is extracted needs the climatic conditions of the tropics. Therefore it grows only in the tropics.

Most of the palm oil, about 85 %, comes from Indonesia and Malaysia - that is to say from Southeast Asia. But more and more palm oil is also being cultivated on the continents of South America and Africa.

Palm oil comes from the tropics. The tropics are regions near the equator, and are characterized by warm temperatures and much rain.

The tropical rainforests are home to an incredible variety of creatures. Some of them, such as the orang-utan, are now severely threatened because there are no longer so many rainforests on earth.

Today we will take a closer look at how palm oil is produced.

As mentioned before, palm oil comes from the oil palm, which is usually cultivated on large plantations.

Its fruits - comparable in size to a plum - grow in large bundles weighing up to 25 kilograms. As soon as they are ripe, they must be processed quickly, as the ripe fruits rot after about 24 hours.

They are transported to an oil mill where they are pressed into palm oil.

Like other vegetable oils, such as sunflower oil or rapeseed oil, this can be used for cooking and frying. However, it is mainly processed further and, as mentioned earlier, occurs in very different products.

Now I would like us to go on a journey together and travel to Cameroon mentally. Cameroon is a country in the tropics, in the west of Africa and produces palm oil. We will now dive into a new world together and slip into the role of people who live in Cameroon and produce palm oil there.

Namely in the roles of producers, truck rental companies, or employees of an artisan or industrial oil mill.

And how does that work? We have a table with producers on one side. Here we are in a valley where palm oil is produced. You own either 1, 2 or 3 plantations. On each of the plantations you can see 4 palm fruits. One palm fruit symbolizes many palm fruits - about one ton of palm fruits. The 4 palm fruits correspond to the harvest of a whole year.

In the tropics there are no seasons, neither winter, spring, summer nor autumn. It is always warm and more or less humid. Therefore, palm fruits can be harvested all year round. Due to the rainy season (i.e. much rain) and the dry season (i.e. little rain) the conditions are not always the same. In the first half of the year, we call this time in the game the «main season», you can harvest 3 times because of better conditions. In the next 6 months the conditions are less good. We can only harvest once more. We are then in the «low season».

Well, with every harvest the producers take 1 palm fruit per plantation and have to sell it. And they have to do it quickly, because the palm fruit spoils within 24 hours.

Now you have the choice: Do you want to go to the artisanal or the industrial oil mill to sell the fruits?

In Cameroon there are on the one hand numerous so-called artisanal mills. These are located very close to the palm oil plantations. That means you as producers can run there with the wheelbarrow and sell your fruits. The artisanal mill pays you cash on your hand. As soon as the artisanal mill has 7 palm fruits, it can press a bottle of palm oil.

On the other hand, there are industrial mills. They look like big factories. They are much more efficient and only need 5 palm fruits to press a bottle of palm oil. However, they do not pay in cash, but issue contracts.

In addition, they are relatively far away from the plantations.

That means for you producers, if you think you'd rather sell at the industrial oil mill, you first have to go to the truck rental and rent a truck to transport your fruits.

The truck rental has two different cars on offer: small trucks, which can carry 1 palm fruit, and large trucks with a capacity of 3 palm fruits.

Twice a year, after the high season and after the low season, taxes have to be paid. In this phase of the game, all players must go to the market with their tax sheets and pay their taxes.

The oil mills can sell their pressed palm oil in this phase (prices on the blackboard).

The contracts can then be redeemed at the industrial oil mill.

On the table of the producers you can see small trees. These symbolize rainforest. Turn over such a card! You see what could become of it if you cut down the rainforest: A new palm oil plantation.

If you turn over your plantation cards, you'll see what your plantations used to be: Yes, exactly, rainforest!

*At the board you can see price recommendations**..*

What	Price (Fr.)
Fresh fruit bunches: Artisanal mill	340.—
Fresh fruit bunches: Industrial mill	390.—
Small truck	50.—
Big truck	120.—

Are there still questions?

Then we would simply start! This means all producers take one palm fruit per plantation and sell it. Either directly at the artisanal mill or via truck rental at the industrial oil mill.

Go!

The game master also explains the following to the oil mills bilaterally:

Industrial mill:

You can press as much palm oil as you want. As soon as you have 5 palm fruits, let me know - I'll exchange your fruits for a vial of palm oil. You can sell them at the market during the tax phase. Unpressed fruit rot after one season.

Artisanal mill:

You currently have one mill, so you can press one vial of palm oil per season. If you want more, you can increase your capacity: 1000 Fr.- (to be paid at the market) per mill. As soon as you have 7 palm fruits, let me know - I'll exchange your fruits for a vial of palm oil. You can sell them at the market during the tax phase. Unpressed fruit rot after one season.

*Depending on the context, the example of Cameroon can also be applied for other countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia or Colombia.

** Depending on the situation, these prices can be defined as freely negotiable right from the start. Or one says, during the first play round those prices are valid. And if the game goes well, you leave the palm oil and truck prices free to negotiate on the second round.

Thus the game begins, which basically consists of three rounds.