



THE INTERNATIONAL PALM SOCIETY

February 2019

NEWSLETTER

This month we present a short note about a prize awarded to women engaged in the oil palm industry in Colombia, which seeks to highlight social aspects of their vocation. Also a note about Fedepalma, the Colombian organization that organizes the award.

The woman palm-farmer



Logo of the Fedepalma prize that recognizes women's labor and contributions. Logo © by Fedepalma, taken from its website.

Every year since 2009, the Colombian Oil Palm Farmers National Federation (Fedepalma) has awarded the Woman Palm-Farmer Prize, which recognizes women who are part of the oil palm production chain in Colombia.

Historically, women have had a disadvantaged position in the agricultural sector, due to their restricted access to fair conditions, or by the invisibility of their contributions. The oil palm sector has been no exception. With this prize, Fedepalma stresses the importance of their work and contributes to gender equality.

The woman palm-farmer

Any woman linked for at least three years with oil palm production can be nominated, and the recipient of the prize is selected by a jury comprised by women with experience in gender equality in rural areas and linked to the oil palm industry.

It is worth saying that many of these women and/or their families were affected by the Colombian civil conflict; therefore, their agricultural work contributes to peace and better lives in these affected areas.

Nominations are open until the 22th of April 2019; for more information:

[La Mujer Palmera Campesina, Fedepalma.](#)

[Abiertas postulaciones al premio Mujer Palmera Campesina.](#) By Ximena González, Editorial la República.

As in other agricultural sectors, women's contributions are not always fairly acknowledged. Here a woman working in a oil palm plantation in Colombia. Photo © by Fedepalma.



Fedepalma



The Colombian Oil Palm Farmers National Federation (Fedepalma) is an organization that brings together most of the small, middle, and big stakeholders in the production and industrial processing of the oil palm in Colombia.

Fedepalma

The oil palm sector in Colombia generates employment for about 160,000 people and comprises about 6% of the Colombian agricultural GDP. This organization coordinates the work between stakeholders and tries to improve the social, environmental and economical conditions of the entire value chain of this crop. A report released in 2009 by Fededesarrollo states that workers linked to oil palm in Colombia are better off than in other agro-industrial sectors.

Report: [“Estudio de caracterización del empleo en el sector palmero colombiano”](#) (Spanish)

Fedepalma also fosters research and development in the oil palm sector by funding and supporting one of the most important oil palm research centers in America: [Cenipalma](#).



Sustainability is also a commitment of this institution, which is engaged with certification under the aegis of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil program (RSPO). This certification scheme, as indicated on its website, promotes transparency in palm oil in its complete production chain with both environmental and social approaches.



Links: [Fedepalma RSPO](#)
[RSPO Certification](#)

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Important: The mention of the RSPO in this newsletter does not imply, by any means, the recommendation, valuation, approval or disapproval of this certification scheme by the International Palm Society.

DOES YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER/PALM SOCIETY HAVE AN EVENT? Let us know by mentioning it here! Or share your experiences afterwards! Contact us and send us pictures!

Keep in mind that the IPS also offers merchandise online that can help you show off your membership, present your palm passion, and help spread the word about our community of palm enthusiasts!!

How do you get your own IPS items that include jewelry, shirts, caps, mugs, glasses,



and many other practical items? Simply follow the “caps, t-shirt, totes, and more!” link from the IPS homepage [IPS Home](#), or go directly to this link: [IPS CafePress](#).

Remember to support our organization by participating with us! You can contribute by participating in our Palm Talk forum, our Facebook group, or by writing an article for either Palms journal or a note for IPS newsletter. You can also make an extra donation to the International Palm Society.



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“Green wall installation on a commercial building on south-bound US-1 just south of Atlantic Avenue, Delray Beach, Florida, USA. Plants include: *Codiaeum variegatum* (the reddish-bronze plants), *Philodendron burle-marxii*, *Schefflera arboricola*.” The palm is a *Veitchia arecina*. Photo by [Scott Zona](#) (CC BY-NC 2.0)