

As a former food processor and consultant to the food industry that used vegetable oils, I understand the convenience of using the term "vegetable oil", it allows you to change oils without going through the expensive process of changing labelling and packaging.

Lately I have seen the Palm Oil ingredient of some products changed to vegetable oil when there is no intention to use other oils.

This seems to be a reaction to environmental awareness of the damage to habitat of orangatans, so the consumers' right to choose has been deliberately stolen.

This habitat destruction would face fierce opposition if it happened in Australia and New Zealand, I therefore ask that Palm Oil ingredients be labelled as such and not disguised as Vegetable Oil.

The dilemma now is how does one know whether Palm Oil in a product is from new or old plantations? This is really an environmental matter that should have been addressed at that level and not from consumer boycotts of all Palm Oil.

As you may be aware some cosmetic companies have decided to change the formulation of their products so Palm Oil is excluded and this saves them the expense of different labelling for different countries.

I believe the Palm Oil industry will survive and grow, but I still want to know if it's an ingredient of any product that I use.

Some consumers need to know the oil type used due to dietary reasons and this choice should not be taken from them.

Sincerely,

Albert Devivo