

January 2010

BBC Panorama programme on Palm Oil

Response from Warburtons

As one of Britain's leading grocery brands, we encourage healthy eating and help people make responsible dietary choices.

Warburtons uses small quantities of Palm oil in all of our products to improve overall bread quality, particularly consistency in texture and softness. We use around 1,000 tonnes a year.

Warburtons have taken the decision, inline with current labelling legislation relevant to bread and bakery products, to declare vegetable oil on our packaging. This is because we use a blend of vegetable oils in our products. We believe this is more acceptable to consumers than using either animal fat or hydrogenated vegetable oils. The Palm oil is the smallest proportion of the oils used, at between 15% and 20% of the blend.

To help support the creation of a sustainable supply of Palm oil, Warburtons is currently a member of the 'Roundtable on Sustainable Palm oil' (RSPO). The RSPO brings different stakeholders together to ensure the long-term viability of Palm oil cultivation. As a member, we are committed to working towards increasing the supply of sustainable Palm oil.

Warburtons is also supporting GreenPalm, the RSPO endorsed international Palm oil certificate-trading programme. This has been designed to tackle the environmental and social problems that Palm oil production creates by rewarding producers for farming in responsible and sustainable ways. We have a control process in place to balance the amount of certificates purchased with our oil usage and have undertaken to report back to the RSPO annually and post progress made on our website.

In terms of sourcing, we buy blended vegetable oil that meets our requirements through a number of approved suppliers, who buy direct from the plantations or brokers.

With regard to our Palm oil policy and targets, Warburtons plans to continue our membership of the RSPO and GreenPalm certificate trading. At the same time, we will work with our suppliers to establish traceable sources of Palm oil and Palm oil stearin, reviewing our progress quarterly.

Warburtons is committed to sourcing 100% certified segregated sustainable Palm oil and Palm oil stearin by 2011 or sooner.