

ASEAN

Neutral (no change)

Highlighted Companies

First Resources Ltd HOLD, TP \$\$2.10, \$\$2.10 close

The lifting of the export ban on palm oil will allow First Resources to fulfill backlog orders and commit forward sales. We estimate that every US\$10/tonne change in net CPO price assumption could impact its FY22 net profit by 2.4%.

Golden Agri-Resources HOLD, TP S\$0.30, S\$0.275 close

Golden Agri will be able to resume exports following the lifting of the ban. We gathered the group exports around 80% of its palm products. We estimate that every US\$10/tonne change in net CPO price assumption could impact its FY22 net profit by 2.8%.

Wilmar International ADD, TP S\$5.69, S\$4.12 close

Wilmar upstream estates and downstream processing business in Indonesia will be able to resume palm oil shipments. But this could be partially offset by lower profitability from Malaysia's palm business. We estimate every US\$10/tonne change in net CPO price assumption could impact its FY22 net profit by 0.3%.

Summary Valuation Metrics

P/E (x)	Dec-22F	Dec-23F	Dec-24F
First Resources Ltd	10.07	15.52	15.38
Golden Agri-Resources	5.51	11.63	11.77
Wilmar International	10.66	10.62	9.78
P/BV (x)	Dec-22F	Dec-23F	Dec-24F
First Resources Ltd	1.82	1.72	1.63
Golden Agri-Resources	0.50	0.49	0.47
Wilmar International	0.91	0.87	0.83
Dividend Yield	Dec-22F	Dec-23F	Dec-24F
First Resources Ltd	4.97%	3.22%	3.25%
Golden Agri-Resources	3.79%	1.79%	1.77%
Wilmar International	4.22%	4.24%	4.60%

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Agribusiness

Indonesia lifts ban on palm oil exports

- We are not surprised by Indonesia's decision to lift the palm oil export ban.
- This could lead to higher/lower CPO prices in Indonesia/Malaysia. Potential winners are palm oil producers/refiners/exporters in Indonesia, importers of palm oil from Indonesia and users of palm oil.
- Potential losers are Malaysian CPO producers and Indonesian consumers.

Indonesia to lift palm oil exports ban effective 23 May 2022

Indonesia will lift its palm oil export ban from Monday, 23 May, following improvements in the domestic cooking oil supply situation, President Joko Widodo said on 19 May. Since 28 Apr, the world's top palm oil exporter has halted shipments of crude palm oil (CPO), refined palm olein and refined palm oil to try to tame soaring prices of domestic cooking oil. The decision comes despite bulk cooking oil having not yet receded to the targeted Rp14,000 per litre, as the government considers the welfare of 17m workers in the palm oil industry, the president said. The President added that the supply of bulk cooking oil has now reached a level greater than what the domestic market needed. "Average price of (bulk) cooking oil before the export ban in April was Rp19,800 per litre and after the ban the average price dropped to around Rp17,200 to Rp17,600 per litre," he added. Indonesia came up with the ban on exports of the widely used vegetable oil as a means of controlling domestic prices, but pressures have been mounting to lift it, as farmers protested that there was no demand for their palm fruits. To recap, Indonesia is the largest edible oil producer and exporter, accounting for 56% of world exports of palm oil and 34% of world exports of edible oils.

The lifting of the ban is highly anticipated by market

The lifting of the ban on palm oil exports is not a surprise as some market participants have predicted this earlier. This is also in line with our prediction that the export ban is unlikely to last more than a month because this will lead to potential storage and logistics issues in Indonesia as fresh fruit bunches (FFB) harvested from the estates cannot be stored. However, the President's statement lacks specifics. As such, there could be more details tomorrow on whether the lifting of the export ban could come with additional measures. The other reason why we feel the export ban is likely to be lifted is due to the sharp fall of prices of fresh fruit bunches (FFB) by up to 70% below a floor price set by regional authorities. The smallholders group (APKASINDO) estimates that at least 25% of palm oil mills have stopped buying palm fruit from independent farmers since the ban started, indicating that storage tanks are filling up at mills.

Potential winners and losers from this event

We expect CPO prices in Malaysia to fall as this would ease the panic buying by consumers and palm oil producers could shift their focus to exports from Indonesia instead of Malaysia to fullfill backlog orders for the past 25 days (28 Apr to 23 May) and clear inventory in the tanks. This news sent soybean oil prices lower by 1.5% at the point of writing, due to rising export supplies from Indonesia. Potential winners from this ruling are palm oil producers with estates and refiners in Indonesia (First Resources, Golden Agri, Astra Agro, London Sumatra, TAPG, DSNG, Wilmar (65% of planted oil palm estates), Sime Darby Plantations (33% of planted estates), KLK (54% of planted estates), Genting Plantations (73% of landbank), IOI Corp (20% planted estates including associates)) and consumers of palm oil around the world as this will ease shortages of edible oil supplies in the global market. The potential losers from the lifting of the temporary export ban are palm oil producers with estates in Malaysia like Ta Ann, Hap Seng Plantations, FGV, IOI Corp (80% of planted estates including associates), Sime Darby Plantations (50% of planted estates in Malaysia), KLK (40% of planted estates), Genting Plantations (26% of landbank), Wilmar (26% of planted oil palm estates) due to weaker near-term demand for Malaysian palm oil, following the lifting of the ban. Reiterate sector Neutral.



Agribusiness | May 19, 2022

Figure 1: Sector compar	rison – Agrik	ousiness														
Company	BB Ticker	Basam	Price	Target Price	Market	Core F	P/E (x)	3-year EPS	P/B\	/ (x)	Recur. I	ROE (%)	EV/EBIT	DA (x)	Dividend	Yield (%)
Company	DD HCKel	Recoili.	(local curr)	(local curr)	Cap	CY2022F	CY2023F	CAGR (%)	CY2022F	CY2023F	CY2022F	CY2023F	CY2022F	CY2023F	CY2022F	CY2023F
IOI Corporation	IOI MK	Hold	RM4.39	RM4.57	6,193	16.8	20.3	-13.5%	2.45	2.32	15.0%	11.0%	10.3	12.6	2.3%	2.2%
Kuala Lumpur Kepong	KLK MK	Add	RM26.90	RM29.57	6,585	14.1	18.9	-18.3%	2.07	1.99	15.6%	10.7%	7.6	9.4	3.4%	2.6%
FGV Holdings Bhd	FGV MK	Hold	RM1.68	RM1.95	1,392	6.2	10.3	-55.4%	1.00	0.94	17.1%	9.4%	4.0	5.1	4.8%	3.0%
Genting Plantations	GENP MK	Add	RM8.60	RM9.18	1,752	15.4	25.8	-16.6%	1.43	1.41	9.5%	5.5%	7.9	11.4	3.5%	2.9%
Hap Seng Plantations	HAPL MK	Add	RM2.99	RM2.79	543	13.4	22.3	-34.8%	1.30	1.28	9.6%	5.8%	6.0	8.6	4.9%	3.0%
Ta Ann	TAH MK	Hold	RM5.34	RM5.05	534	9.2	17.8	-39.4%	1.34	1.28	15.2%	7.4%	4.8	7.2	4.7%	2.4%
United Malacca Bhd	UMR MK	Hold	RM5.61	RM5.42	267	12.5	21.2	-57.5%	0.83	0.82	6.8%	3.9%	5.9	7.7	3.2%	1.9%
Malaysia Average						14.4	19.5	-21.2%	2.0	1.9	14.5%	9.8%	8.1	10.3	3.2%	2.5%
Wilmar International	WIL SP	Add	SGD4.12	SGD5.69	18,739	10.7	10.6	-6.9%	0.91	0.87	8.8%	8.4%	10.4	9.9	4.2%	4.2%
Golden Agri-Resources	GGR SP	Hold	SGD0.28	SGD0.30	2,522	5.5	11.6	-35.7%	0.50	0.49	9.9%	4.4%	4.1	5.4	3.8%	1.8%
First Resources Ltd	FR SP	Hold	SGD2.10	SGD2.10	2,395	10.1	15.5	-7.1%	1.82	1.72	18.9%	11.4%	5.3	7.2	5.0%	3.2%
Singapore Average						10.0	11.2	-10.0%	1.0	0.9	9.9%	8.3%	9.2	9.1	4.3%	3.9%
Astra Agro Lestari	AALI IJ	Add	Rp12,200.00	Rp12,300.00	1,595	9.5	13.3	-31.7%	1.05	1.00	11.4%	7.7%	5.6	6.2	4.5%	3.2%
Dharma Satya Nusantara	DSNG IJ	Add	Rp560.00	Rp1,250.00	403	6.2	6.3	-26.7%	0.83	0.75	14.1%	12.6%	4.8	4.4	3.9%	3.8%
London Sumatra	LSIP IJ	Add	Rp1,385.00	Rp1,510.00	642	7.7	12.8	-17.4%	0.92	0.89	12.4%	7.1%	3.0	3.8	5.1%	3.1%
Triputra Agro Persada	TAPG IJ	Add	Rp685.00	Rp1,110.00	924	7.6	8.7	-17.7%	1.53	1.36	20.2%	15.5%	5.5	5.6	4.1%	3.5%
Indonesia Average						8.3	11.2	-24.9%	1.1	1.0	14.2%	10.1%	5.0	5.4	4.4%	3.3%
Sector average						10.9	14.0	-18.7%	1.4	1.3	12.9%	9.4%	7.5	8.3	4.0%	3.2%
												SC	OURCES: CGS-	CIMB RESEA	RCH, COMPAN	IY REPORTS



ESG in a nutshell



The current ESG concerns affecting the sector is the allegation of forced labour by the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) on Malaysian plantation companies. On 28 Jan 2022, the US CBP issued a Notice of Finding on Sime Darby Plantation as it said it has sufficient information to determine that SDP uses forced labour and that the company's goods are subject to seizure. US CBP issued a Withhold Release Order (WRO) on 30 Sep 2020 against palm oil products made by FGV and its subsidiaries and joint ventures on 30 Aug 2021. This issue partly contributed to Malaysian planters underperforming the KLCI in 2021 as some funds may have sold due to concerns over ESG risks.

Keep your eye on

On 15 Feb, Sime Darby Plantation announced that it will institute sweeping changes in governance structures, policies and procedures. It will reimburse recruitment fees to its current foreign workers, establish an improved Responsible Recruitment Procedure and implement new processes to enable better dialogue with workers. The group has provided RM82m to reimburse recruitment fees to current and past foreign workers.

The US CBP has seized four shipments of Malaysian palm oil valued at nearly US\$2.5m in Baltimore since 11 Feb 2022 due to information indicating that the products were manufactured by forced labour.

Implications

The forced labour issue is likely to lead to permanently higher costs for the plantation companies affected as they could be required to provide remediation fees to their current and past workers and face higher recruitment costs for foreign workers due to additional measures taken to ensure there is no instance of no forced labour. The compliance costs to lower this risk could also increase as companies step up their governance structure for foreign workers. We have applied a discount of up to 10% to our SOP assumptions to reflect concerns over ESG risks for some of the plantation companies under our coverage.

ESG highlights

In the latest rankings by SPOTT on ESG policy transparency assessments on Nov 2021, Wilmar was ranked no. 1/100 with a score of 91.3% and had the highest ESG score among the agribusiness companies under our coverage. United Plantations had the highest ranking in SPOTT among the Malaysian listed plantation companies, followed by Sime Darby Plantations and Hap Seng Plantations. Among the Indonesian listed plantation players under our coverage, DSNG had the highest ranking in SPOTT, followed by Triputra. Among Singapore agribusiness companies under our coverage, Wilmar had the highest ranking followed by Golden Agri and First Resources.

Implications

Wilmar is ahead of the pack in terms of ESG transparency and practices and this is recognised via the company's entry into the global sustainability indices. Wilmar is a member of the FTSE4Good Developed Index, FTSE4Good ASEAN 5 Index and Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (under Asia Pacific for the Food, Beverage and Tobacco industry grouping). Its strong ESG transparency will improve its investability among investor communities concerned about ESG risks.

Trends

The steps taken by Sime Darby Plantations to address concerns of forced labour, including an external audit on its labour practices and engaging US CBP, could lead to a resolution of this issue late this year or in 2023, in our view.

Implications

This could lift the current negative sentiment regarding ESG risks on the Malaysian plantation companies as investors will be able to better gauge the potential implications of additional costs on companies' future earnings.

SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, REFINITIV



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Score Range:	90 - 100	80 – 89	70 - 79	Below 70	No Survey Result
Description:	Excellent	Very Good	Good	N/A	N/A

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632 companies under coverage for quarter ended of	on 31 March 2022				
	Rating Distribution (%)	Investment Banking clients (%)			
Add	70.3%	0.8%			
Hold	22.0%	0.0%			
Reduce	7.8%	0.2%			

Corporate Governance Report of Thai Listed Companies (CGR). CG Rating by the Thai Institute of Directors Association (Thai IOD) in 2021, Anti-Corruption 2021

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Recommendation	Framework
Stock Ratings	Definition:
Add	The stock's total return is expected to exceed 10% over the next 12 months.
Hold	The stock's total return is expected to be between 0% and positive 10% over the next 12 months.
Reduce	The stock's total return is expected to fall below 0% or more over the next 12 months.
	eturn of a stock is defined as the sum of the: (i) percentage difference between the target price and the current price and (ii) the forward net stock. Stock price targets have an investment horizon of 12 months.
Sector Ratings	Definition:
Overweight	An Overweight rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a positive absolute recommendation.
Neutral	A Neutral rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a neutral absolute recommendation.
Underweight	An Underweight rating means stocks in the sector have, on a market cap-weighted basis, a negative absolute recommendation.
	Definition:
Country Ratings	Definition.
Country Ratings Overweight	An Overweight rating means investors should be positioned with an above-market weight in this country relative to benchmark.

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