

Malaysia

Neutral (no change)

Highlighted Companies

Hap Seng Plantations ADD, TP RM2.80, RM2.00 close

We like Hap Seng Plantations (HSP) as it trades at an attractive EV/ha of RM38.5k and offers enticing dividend yields of 11%/5% for FY22F/23F.

Kuala Lumpur Kepong ADD, TP RM24.86, RM19.80 close

Kuala Lumpur Kepong's (KLK) upstream palm oil business earnings in Indonesia will benefit from the current waiver on palm oil export levy. We also like KLK due to potential synergies to be extracted from its recent acquisition of IJM Plantation.

Summary Valuation Metrics

P/E (x)	Dec-22F	Dec-23F	Dec-24F
Hap Seng Plantations	5.88	11.35	13.81
Kuala Lumpur Kepong	9.61	12.83	
P/BV (x)	Dec-22F	Dec-23F	Dec-24F
Hap Seng Plantations	0.80	0.78	0.76
Kuala Lumpur Kepong	1.50	1.43	
Dividend Yield	Dec-22F	Dec-23F	Dec-24F
Hap Seng Plantations	10.20%	5.29%	4.34%
Kuala Lumpur Kepong	4.64%	3.52%	

Agribusiness

Expect lower 3Q profit due to weaker price

- Malaysian palm oil stocks climbed to 2.31m tonnes as at end-Sep 2022 highest since Oct 2019 — spot on against our forecast but above consensus'.
- We project palm oil stocks to rise 8.2% mom to 2.5m tonnes by end-Oct 2022F, due to Indonesia's more competitive export tax vs. Malaysia
- We expect Malaysian planters to post weaker 3Q earnings on a yoy and qoq basis, as falling prices and rising costs trump the better production.

Malaysia palm oil stocks rose to its highest since Oct 2019

Malaysia's palm oil stocks increased 11% mom and 32% yoy to a near-three-year high of 2.31m tonnes in Sep 2022, as rising output outpaced the recovery in exports. Palm oil stock level as at end-Sep was spot on against our prediction but 1.8%/2.2% above Reuters'/Bloomberg's poll estimates of 2.27m/2.26m tonnes. Malaysia's palm oil stock is trending higher due to seasonality factor and stiff competition from Indonesia's palm oil. The rising stocks, coupled with Intertek's report that Malaysia's palm oil exports for the first 10 days of Oct fell 13.4% mom, are likely to dampen near-term CPO price in Malaysia.

Build-up of palm oil stock in Malaysia as Indonesia clears stock

Malaysia palm oil output of 1.77m tonnes (+4% yoy) in Sep 22 remains below potential due to worker shortages. However, the key driver for the higher stocks is the weaker recovery in palm oil exports as Indonesian palm oil players raise their exports to clear stock, as well as to enjoy the current palm oil levy waiver till end-Oct. Malaysian palm oil exports of 1.42m tonnes in Sep (-12% yoy) indicates palm oil export market share loss to Indonesia. According to GAPKI, Indonesia's palm oil stocks fell 32% mom (or 1.87m tonnes) to 4.04m tonnes in August, as the surge in exports (+60% mom to 4.33m tonnes) far outpaced the 13.2% mom rise in output to 4.31m tonnes. Indonesia's palm oil export tax of US\$33/tonne (RM151/tonne) for 1-15 Oct 2022 was lower than Malaysia's export tax of RM322/tonne. This makes Indonesia palm oil more competitive till at least end-Oct, and possibly through Dec if the Indonesian government extends the levy waiver till end-Dec 2022.

Expect weaker earnings from Malaysian planters in 3Q22F

We project palm oil stocks to rise 8.2% mom to 2.5m tonnes by end-Oct 2022F, as higher output trump higher exports. We believe CPO prices could trade in the RM3,500-4,500/tonne range in Oct 2022F. CPO prices is likely to stay weak in Oct due to competition from higher Indonesian palm oil exports. However, CPO price downside will be capped by its attractive discount against competing edible oils. We project upstream planters in Malaysia to post weaker qoq and yoy 3Q22F net profits due to lower CPO prices. Average Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) CPO price fell 39.1% qoq and 9.6% yoy in 3Q22 to RM3,990/tonne, which more than offset the 13.5% qoq and 2.7% yoy rise in CPO production achieved by Malaysian estates in 3Q22. These, coupled with higher operating costs due to the hike in the minimum wage in Malaysia to RM1,500 per month effective 1 May 2022, higher fertiliser costs, as well as the windfall/Cukai Makmur tax, are likely to dent planters' 3Q22 earnings. The downside risks for planters are supported by the sector's dividend yields of 5.2% and low P/E valuations of 11.8x for 2022F.

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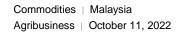
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	Bba		Price	Target Price	Market	Core P	/F (x)	P/B\	/ (x)	Recur. I	ROE (%)	EV/EBITDA	(x)	Dividend	Yield (%)
Company	Ticker	Recom	(local curr)	(local curr)	-	CY2022F				CY2022F		CY2022F CY			
IOI Corporation	IOI MK	Hold	RM3.68	RM4.24	4,892	14.0	18.5	2.05	1.94	15.6%	10.8%	9.1	11.0	3.7%	3.1%
Kuala Lumpur Kepong	KLK MK	Add	RM19.80	RM24.86	4,568	9.6	12.8	1.50	1.43	17.1%	11.4%	5.4	6.8	4.6%	3.5%
FGV Holdings Bhd	FGV MK	Hold	RM1.36	RM1.69	1,062	3.8	8.8	0.78	0.74	22.7%	8.6%	2.8	4.5	7.4%	3.7%
Genting Plantations	GENP MK	Hold	RM5.58	RM7.06	1,071	8.9	15.8	0.93	0.92	11.2%	5.9%	4.7	7.3	7.2%	4.5%
Hap Seng Plantations	HAPL MK	Add	RM2.00	RM2.80	342	5.9	11.3	0.80	0.78	14.6%	7.0%	2.1	3.3	10.2%	5.3%
Sarawak Plantation	SPLB MK	Hold	RM2.02	RM2.05	121	5.7	7.5	0.78	0.74	14.7%	10.1%	2.7	3.2	7.9%	5.9%
Ta Ann	TAH MK	Hold	RM3.35	RM4.21	316	4.6	7.3	0.85	0.79	19.8%	11.3%	2.3	3.1	11.9%	5.6%
United Malacca Bhd	UMR MK	Hold	RM5.40	RM5.37	242	11.7	17.4	0.79	0.77	7.1%	4.5%	5.7	7.0	3.4%	2.5%
Malaysia Average						10.5	14.8	1.55	1.47	16.3%	10.2%	6.4	8.1	5.0%	3.5%
Wilmar International	WIL SP	Add	SGD3.65	SGD5.69	15,856	9.1	9.1	0.78	0.74	8.8%	8.4%	9.7	9.2	5.0%	5.0%
Golden Agri-Resources	GGR SP	Hold	SGD0.27	SGD0.28	2,383	4.2	7.6	0.47	0.45	12.4%	6.4%	3.6	4.5	7.8%	4.3%
First Resources Ltd	FR SP	Add	SGD1.35	SGD1.76	1,476	5.6	8.5	1.11	1.05	20.9%	12.7%	3.3	4.3	8.9%	5.9%
Singapore Average						8.2	8.8	0.77	0.73	10.1%	8.5%	8.5	8.2	5.6%	5.0%
Astra Agro Lestari	AALI IJ	Hold	Rp8,200.00	Rp10,000.00	1,028	7.3	9.4	0.72	0.70	10.1%	7.5%	3.8	4.2	5.9%	6.4%
Dharma Satya Nusantara	DSNG IJ	Add	Rp494.00	Rp570.00	341	7.4	7.7	0.71	0.66	9.9%	8.8%	4.4	3.9	3.3%	3.2%
London Sumatra	LSIP IJ	Add	Rp1,080.00	Rp1,250.00	480	7.0	8.7	0.68	0.65	10.0%	7.6%	1.2	0.4	5.7%	4.6%
Triputra Agro Persada	TAPG IJ	Add	Rp660.00	Rp825.00	853	5.1	6.9	1.38	1.19	28.2%	17.5%	4.6	5.1	5.3%	4.0%
Indonesia Average						6.6	8.3	0.92	0.84	15.8%	10.9%	3.6	3.8	5.4%	4.9%
Sector average						8.4	10.6	1.08	1.01	14.0%	9.8%	6.2	6.7	5.3%	4.5%



Malaysia's palm oil stocks rose 11% mom and 32% yoy to 2.31m tonnes in Sep 2022 — its highest level since Oct 2019 — due to rising output. On a yoy basis, the higher output of 4%, combined with a sharp 76% rise in imports, drove up stocks.

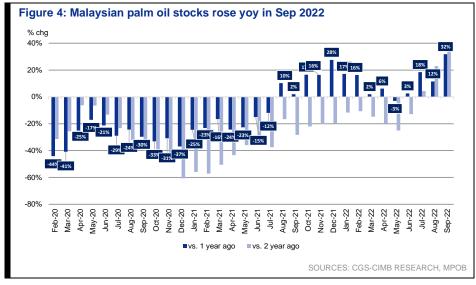
The stock level is in line with our forecast of 2.31m tonnes (as per our stock preview note on 5 Oct 2022).

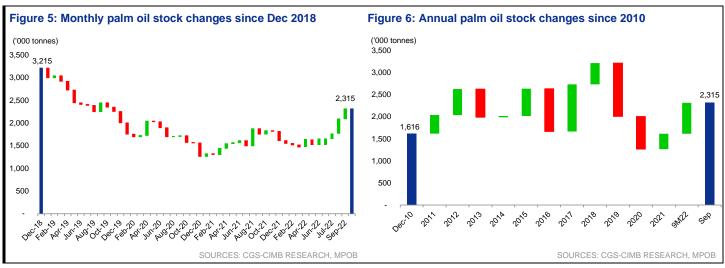
Malaysia's palm oil stocks as of end-Sep 2022 was 2.2% higher than Bloomberg consensus' forecast of 2.26m tonnes and 1.8% above Reuters' poll estimate of 2.27m tonnes.

The end-Sep stock level was 10.2% above the historical 10-year average Sep stock level of 2.1m tonnes.

In Sep 2022, palm oil inventory in Malaysia rose 31.8% relative to its yearago's level (Sep 2021). The Sep 2022 inventory volume is 34.5% above that of Sep 2020 (two years ago).

('000 tonnes)	Sep	Sep	Aug	Sep	Sep	9M	9M	yoy
	CY22	CY21	CY22	mom	yoy	2022	2021	chg
Opening stock	2,095	1,878	1,773	18%	12%	1,615	1,266	28%
Production	1,770	1,704	1,726	3%	4%	13,340	13,301	0%
Pen Malaysia	958	909	950	1%	5%	7,463	7,340	2%
East Malaysia	812	794	775	5%	2%	5,877	5,961	(1%)
Imports	132	75	145	(9%)	76%	900	923	(2%)
Exports	1,420	1,612	1,300	9%	(12%)	11,224	11,248	(0%)
Dom. Disappearance	262	288	250	5%	(9%)	2,315	2,485	(7%)
Ending Stocks	2,315	1,756	2,095	11%	32%	2,315	1,756	32%

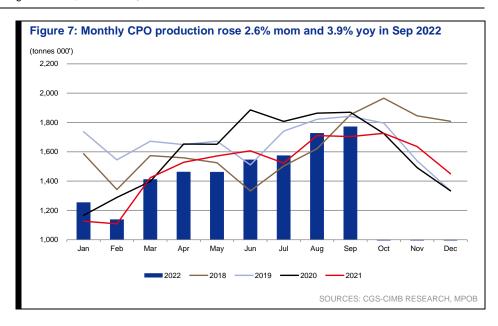


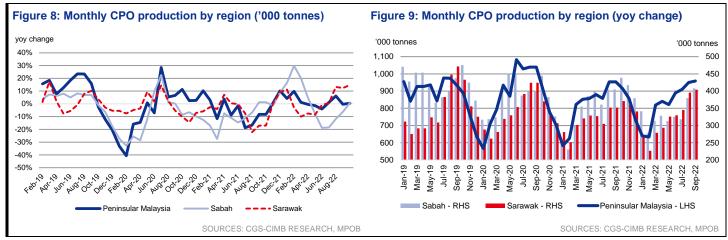




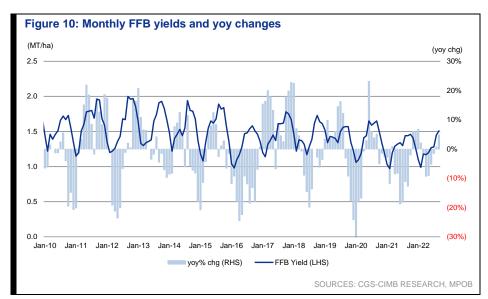
CPO output rose 2.6% mom and 3.9% yoy to 1.77m tonnes in Sep 2022. The mom increase is broadly in line with the historical 5-year average mom increase of 2.8% in Sep. On a yoy basis, palm oil output rose 3.9% in Sep and was flat for 9M22.

The CPO output for Sep was in line with our projection, but 2.2% below the past 5-year average of 1.81m tonnes for Sep. Malaysian estates are currently facing a shortfall of workers (mostly harvesters), which affect productivity at the estates. Seasonally, CPO production in Malaysia peaks in Aug-Oct and starts to trend lower in Nov-Dec.





FFB yields increased 4% mom and 5% yoy, to 1.51 tonnes/ha in Sep 2022. The mom increase was mostly driven by a rise in FFB yields in Terengganu, Kelantan and East Malaysia.





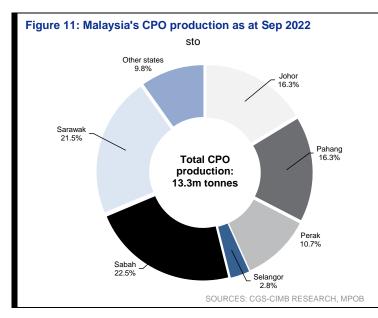


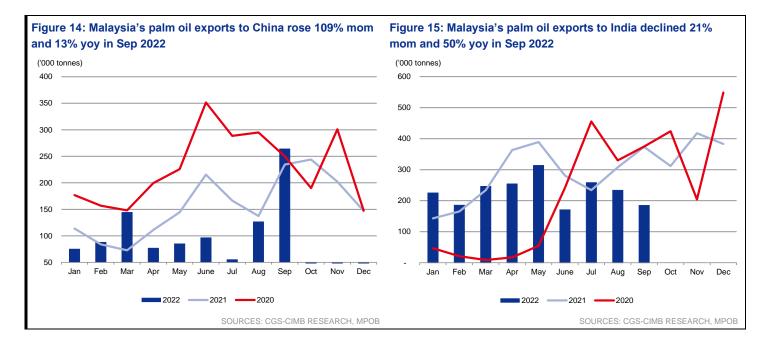
Figure 12: F	rigure 12: FFB yield by State (Sep 2022)										
(MT/ha)	Sep	Sep	Aug	Sep	Sep						
	CY22	CY21	CY22	yoy chg	mom chg						
Johor	1.67	1.60	1.64	4%	2%						
Kedah	1.48	1.31	1.39	13%	6%						
Kelantan	1.12	1.10	1.01	2%	11%						
Malacca	1.65	1.42	1.62	16%	2%						
N. Sembilan	1.66	1.38	1.63	20%	2%						
Pahang	1.60	1.39	1.52	15%	5%						
Penang	0.91	0.86	0.95	6%	(4%)						
Perak	1.66	1.70	1.77	(2%)	(6%)						
Selangor	1.51	1.73	1.54	(13%)	(2%)						
Terengganu	1.27	1.43	1.10	(11%)	15%						
Sabah	1.47	1.54	1.35	(5%)	9%						
Sarawak	1.45	1.31	1.41	11%	3%						
Malaysia	1.51	1.44	1.45	5%	4%						

SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, MPOB

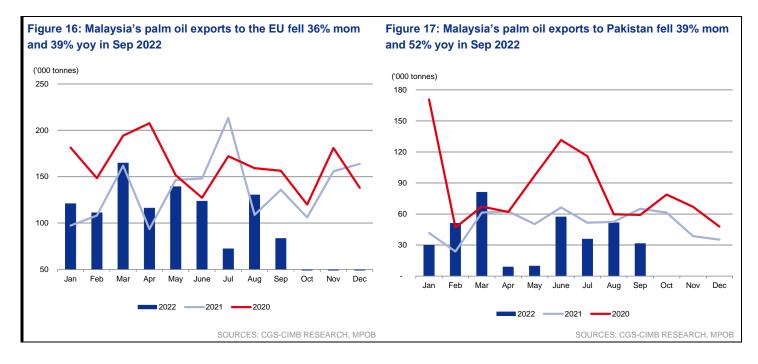
Palm oil exports rose 9% mom but fell 12% yoy to 1.42m tonnes in Sep 2022. The stronger mom exports were driven by the doubling of mom exports to China. However, this is partially offset by lower exports to Pakistan, EU and India due to stiff competition with Indonesia palm oil exports.

Figure 13: Malaysia's monthly and YTD exports to selected destinations (Sep 2022)								
('000 tonnes)	Sep	Aug	Sep	Sep	Sep	9M	9M	yoy
	2022	2022	2021	mom	yoy	2022	2021	chg
China	264	127	234	109%	13%	1,012	1,280	(21%)
India	185	234	373	(21%)	(50%)	2,075	2,491	(17%)
EU	83	130	136	(36%)	(39%)	1,062	1,213	(12%)
Pakistan	31	52	65	(39%)	(52%)	356	475	(25%)
US	15	10	30	57%	(49%)	126	218	(42%)
Others	841	747	773	13%	9%	6,590	5,579	18%
Total	1,420	1,300	1,612	9%	(12%)	11,222	11,255	(0%)
	SOURCES: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, MPOB							

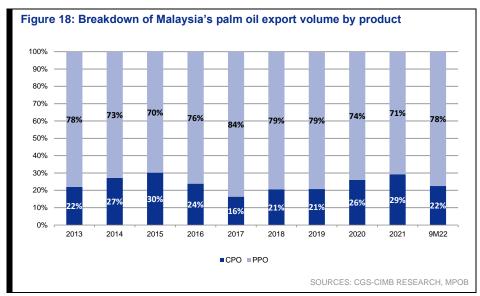
Figure 12: FFR yield by state (Sen 2022)







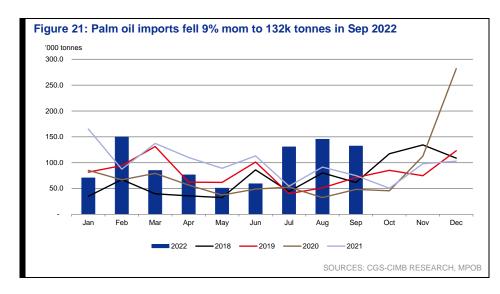
The CPO share of total Malaysian palm oil exports fell to 22% in 9M2022 (vs. 29% in 2021). We believe the lower yoy share of CPO exports was due to higher export duty on CPO for 9M22 vs. 2021. This has made local refiners more competitive in the export markets as processed palm oil (PPO) products attract zero export duty in Malaysia.

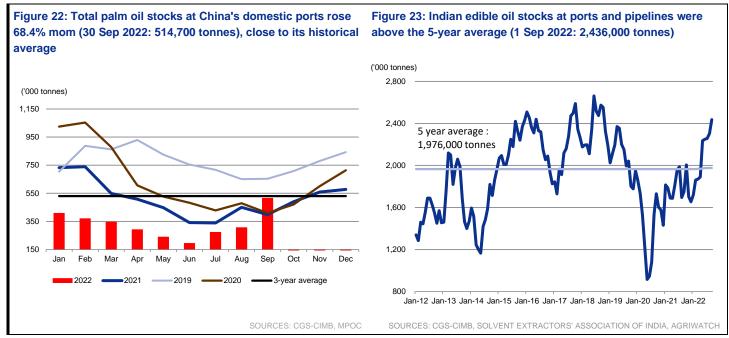


_	llaysia's palm oil expo ers in export volumes			Figure 20: Malaysia's palm oil export destinations – largest decliners in export volumes in 9M22			
Country	Total export in 9M22	yoy chg	% of total gross	0	Total export in 9M22	yoy chg	% of total gross
	('000 tonnes)	('000 tonnes)	increase	Country -	('000 tonnes)	('000 tonnes)	decrease
Turkiye	678	187	11%	India	2,071	(421)	25%
Saudi Arabia	409	176	11%	China	1,012	(268)	16%
Kenya	574	162	10%	Netherlands	575	(145)	9%
U.A.E	258	148	9%	Ghana	40	(124)	7%
Egypt	267	128	8%	Pakistan	356	(118)	7%
Japan	409	95	6%	U.S.A	125	(92)	6%
Other gainers	3,216	747	46%	Other decliners	1,236	(505)	30%
Total gainers	5,811	1,642	100%	Total decliners	5,415	(1,672)	100%
		SOURCES: CGS-CIMB	RESEARCH, MPOB			SOURCES: CGS-CIMB	RESEARCH, MPOB



Palm oil imports fell 9% mom but rose 76% yoy to 132k tonnes in Sep 2022. We believe this could be due to due to higher local production, reducing the need for imports, as well as lower transhipments, in our view.







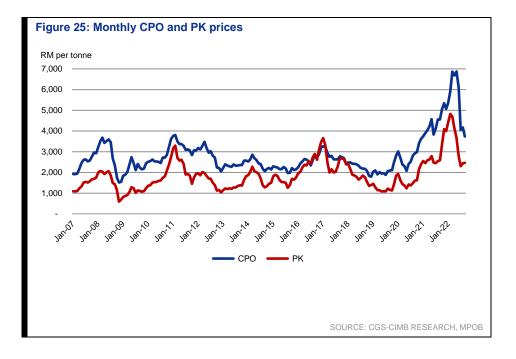
Our tracking of India's monthly imports of edible oils reveals that palm oil's market share of India's total edible oil imports fell slightly yoy in Aug 2022 to 72% (vs. Aug 2021's 74%). On a mom basis, palm oil's market share rose by 28% pts (vs. Jul 2022's 44%). Sunflower oil in India's market share decreased by 3% mom to 10% but rose 3%-pts yoy. In Aug 2022, soybean oil's market share stayed flat yoy at 18% but fell 25% mom from 43% in Jul 2022.

In Aug, India posted an 88% mom and 33% yoy increase in palm oil imports. Additionally, India's palm oil imports fell 57% yoy in 8M22, due possibly to demand destruction caused by the decision by Indonesia to ban palm oil exports. India's edible oil stock at ports and pipelines rose 5.7% mom to 2.44m tonnes as at 1 Sep 2022. This was above its historical five-year average stock level of 1.98m tonnes.

Average CPO price declined 10% mom and 18% yoy to RM3,737/tonne in Sep 2022 – the lowest monthly CPO price since Dec 2020. The average palm kernel (PK) price rose 1% mom but declined 5% yoy to RM2,469 per tonne in Sep 2022, narrowing its discount to CPO to RM1,268 per tonne — i.e. 66.1% of CPO's value. In 9M22, CPO prices averaged RM5,531 per tonne, while PK prices averaged RM3,526 per tonne (vs. average CPO price of RM4,407/tonne and PK price of RM2,773/tonne in 2021).

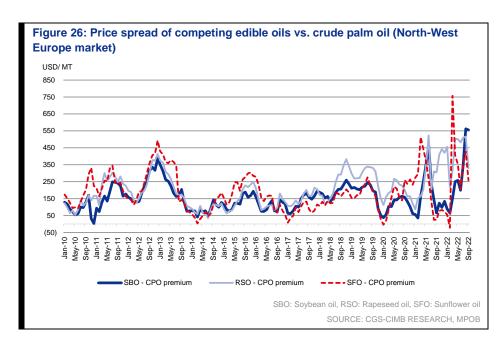
We project Malaysian CPO prices to trade in the RM3,500-4,500 per tonne level in Oct due to stiff competition from Indonesia's palm oil.

'000 tonnes)	Aug	Aug	Jul	Aug	Aug	8M	8M	yoy
	CY22	CY21	CY22	mom	yoy	CY22	CY21	chç
Palm oil	995	750	530	88%	33%	2,120	4,976	(57%
Soft oils	380	266	675	(44%)	43%	2,067	2,999	(31%
Soybean oil	245	182	520	(53%)	34%	1,340	1,839	(27%
Sunflower oil	135	71	155	(13%)	90%	727	1,147	(37%
Total edible oil	1,375	1,016	1,205	14%	35%	4,187	7,975	(47%
Ratio of imports		Aug	Aug		Jul		М	81
		CY22	CY21		CY22	CY		CY2
Palm oil		72%	74%		44%		%	629
Soft oils		28%	26%		56%)%	389
Soybean oil		18%	18%		43%	32		23%
Sunflower oil Total edible oil		10% 100%	7% 100%		13% 100%	17 10 0		149 1009



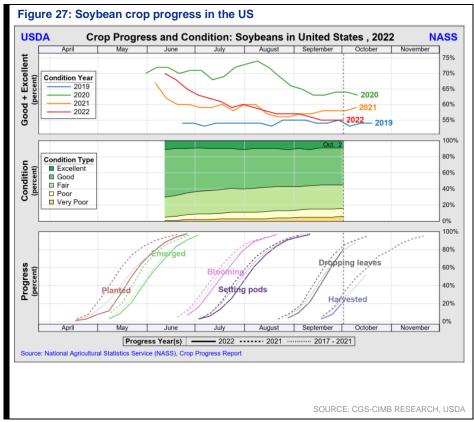


In Sep 2022, the palm oil price discount against soybean oil fell 1% mom from US\$562/tonne to US\$556/tonne, above the historical 5-year average discount of approximately US\$177/tonne, due to high palm oil stocks in Indonesia and rising stocks in Malaysia. We note that the sunflower oil premium to palm oil declined 40% mom to US\$258/tonne, potentially due to increased availability of sunflower oil from the black sea region.



The US Crop progress and condition estimates are based on survey data collected each week from early Apr through the end of Nov. The nonprobability crop progress and condition surveys include input from approximately 3,600 respondents whose occupations provide them make visual opportunities to observations and frequently bring them in contact with farmers in their counties.

Leaf drop was 81% complete nationally by 2 Oct (3% behind last year but 2% ahead of the 5-year average). Leaf drop advanced 10% or more in 15 of the 18 estimating states during the week. Soybean harvest across the US was 22% complete by 2 Oct (9% behind last year and 3% behind the 5-year average). On 2 Oct, 55% of the US's soybean acreage was rated in good to excellent condition, unchanged from the previous week but 3% below the previous year.

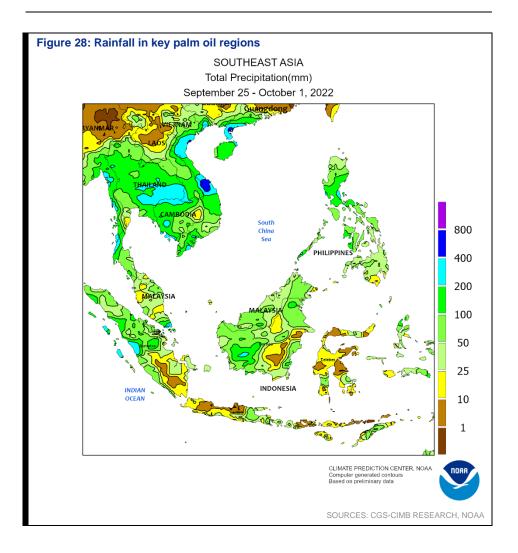




According to the Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), the La Niña event is under way in the tropical Pacific and the Bureau's ENSO Outlook continues at LA NIÑA.

While back-to-back La Niña events are not uncommon and have occurred in approximately half of all past events since 1900, three La Niña events in a row is less common and has only occurred three times in the Bureau's record since 1900: 1954–57, 1973–76, and 1998–2001.

Historically, La Niña tends to bring higher rainfall to palm oil regions, disrupting harvesting activities in the short term. The rainfall data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reveal that most key palm oil growing regions experienced mixed weather conditions in the recent week up to 1 Oct 2022.



We project palm oil stocks to rise 8.2% mom to 2.5m tonnes by end-Oct 2022F, as production and imports trump exports and local consumption. We expect Oct palm oil output to increase 1.3% mom (driven by seasonal factors) and palm oil exports to grow 4% mom due to CPO competitive pricing against other edible oils and ahead of the Diwali festival.

Figure 29: Preliminary palm oil stock estimates for Oct 2022F								
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	Oct	Sep	Oct	Oct	Oct			
('000 tonnes)	22	22	21	mom	yoy			
Opening stock	2,315	2,095	1,756	10.5%	31.8%			
Production	1,793	1,770	1,726	1.3%	3.9%			
Imports	145	132	50	9.6%	187.5%			
Exports	1,477	1,420	1,418	4.0%	4.2%			
Dom Disappearance	273	262	281	4.2%	(2.9%)			
Ending stocks	2,504	2,315	1,834	8.2%	36.5%			

SOURCE: CGS-CIMB RESEARCH, MPOB



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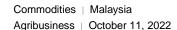
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	The state of the s									
	Distribution of stock ratings and investment banking clients for quarter ended on 30 June 2022									
643 companies under coverage for quarter ended on 30 June 2022										
		Rating Distribution (%)	Investment Banking clients (%)							
	Add	68.4%	0.8%							
	Hold	24.6%	0.0%							
	Reduce	7.0%	0.2%							



Commodities | Malaysia

Agribusiness | October 11, 2022

Recommendation Framework

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