

# Review of: "Palm Oil Expansion and Subnational Food Security"

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This is a very well-written article which shed light on the important question of food security in Indonesia, a country in which rural development and sustainable food production are of paramount importance.

A few remarks though:

- The article in its present form lacks structure and organisation, thus it is unable to provide a series of clear messages and recommendations.
- The present article refers to palm oil production statistics dating back to the 2018/2019 period. Such data needs to be precisely updated.
- Similarly, the authors describe production projections for 2019/2020...
- The authors also state that "The expansion of palm oil cultivation has been incredibly rapid in the past decade". This is true, although more recent trends (post-2020) need to be taken into account.
- Reference to President Widodo's nine priority programs for the 2015-2019 period should be revised/discussed using more recent set of data.
- The same remark applies to data on deforestation and forest fires. Even if those were major issues in 2015 then 2019, the interest of publishing such data in 2023 remains questionable.

Data clearly show that expanding the area for oil palm cultivation can lead to increased food insecurity. Interestingly, research showed that mobile phone ownership is crucial for food security. More, provinces that engage in oil palm cultivation are associated with lower levels of food security and regional gross domestic product.

These are interesting findings, but the article as it stands needs a critical review in order to update its sources and conclusions, and thus provide a much more accurate information.