

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

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

The article highlights the dual nature of oil palm cultivation to food security, which is very interesting. On the one hand, oil palm cultivation has a negative impact on food security. On the other hand, oil palm cultivation indirectly contributes to food security by providing employment opportunities, source of income, improved accessibility, and regional and national income.

Conversion to palm oil cultivation is also driven by the motive to get better income where other crops do not really provide enough income in the increasing needs for cash economy. The article already pays attention to the frustration among producers resulted from importation of foodstuffs. However, it lacks attention to limited options for the agriculture producers in Indonesia to stick on other commodities that are struggling with price fluctuation at the national and global level, price disruption during harvesting season due to oversupply due to importation cause a glut on the market, crop vulnerabilities to floods and weather, increase of farmers' ages limiting them to labour intensively to manage agriculture production, and decline of agricultural labourers as younger villagers choose to work in non-agriculture sector. The Indonesian forestry sector is also struggling for maintaining production that gives sufficient income. These pressures to income generation from crops other than palm oil motivate the conversion to oil palm cultivation, with several exception like the farmers that can get good income from forestry, rice cultivation or other cashcrops like coffee and cacao.

Finally, the author should use updated data in the analysis as the oil palm sector in Indonesia experiences relatively fast changes during the time.